

International hardcore punk magazine

Inside Knowledge Magazine



Issue #6

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Introduction

As I said more than once getting the magazine done in time is always a hell of a job. Even though we love to complain, it still went naturally and quite easy most of the time. Oh boy, not this time around. #6 (this issue!!) seemed to have a spell on it. We couldn't get the interviews done in time... bands cancelled shows or entire tours, cars broke down, phone lines went dead, people got sick and answers were never send back when email interviews were concerned. I have even been thinking of throwing the towel onto the canvas of the punk scene and take a break for half a year or so... but than things got in to a maelstrom of activities. Reviews, ads, interviews, photos were popping up around us like mushrooms on a wet carpet. After doing the Hatebreed interview, with singer Jamey, I got back the inspiration too. Whether you like or dislike that band, Jamey has fire in his eyes and words and knows how to motivate people to keep on working and trying to achieve their goals. I also used some negative energy to do well. Negative energy given to me by some Welsh rip off artist who shall not be named. And yes; he came from the punk scene, so rats are to be found everywhere unfortunately. He left some of my friends in debt, and has now moved to another country to continue his devils' work.

We will keep on doing the things we love, that is making a zine, running a site and putting on shows everywhere we can. So this time we have features like Snapcase, Flogging Molly, Fear My Thoughts, Nine Lives, Pain the Town Red (together with the labels Join the Teamplayer and Let it Burn), Convict and G7 Welcoming Committee. And of course the mentioned story about Hatebreed. Some columns give some personal views of the kids in the scene. May will be the month the next IK will be released, and we will work as hard as we can to get that one to you in time.

For now take care
Martijn, on behalf of the IK crew



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Utrecht, Holland. The date: August 22 in Venue the Ekko. We were supposed to meet one of the band members at 7 o'clock to do this interview, but according to the manager (also the trumpet player in a few songs) most of the band members were in a hotel for a quick shower and the lead singer Dave King seemed to be lost! Happily they all were on time to do there absolutely amazing performance. It's a party to see 'em all play with so much addiction to there music. Right after the show Dave King was so kind to meet us to do this interview. We went to an Irish pub around the corner of the venue, but because it was to crowded in there, we went with our drinks outside and set on a bench. This was probably the most honest and nicest man we did an interview with in a long time. Boy he could talk! Read here what he had to say.



I.K: In your thanklist of the c.d., you thank the Irish soccer team for making it to the World Cup 2002, I think now it's the time to pay a big thanks to the Dutch soccer team!

We kicked your asses, that can I say! When I grew up in Ireland, we always came so fucking close all the time, but never quiet fucking did it. That day was a big day to win from the Dutch team! It's ironic that, like you do something like that, you play Spain, and they beat you on penalties.

I.K: That's a shame!
We did well, really well!

I.K: You did great, I hoped the Irish team would have won the tournament.
Yeah, They had a great fighting spirit, they really did.

I.K: The Irish team is great, they have a good mentality. One for Ireland, one for all!
Absolutely!

I.K: Can you introduce the band and the members?
We've got George Schwindt on drums, Nathen Maxwell on bass, Dennis Casey on guitar, we have Matt Hensley on accordion, Bob Schmidt on mandolin, Bridget Regan on fiddle and tin whistle and than you have me the lead singer.

I.K: You're from Dublin in Ireland; do the other band members have some background or some sort of sympathy with Ireland?
A lot of have, Bridget lived there, half the year, Dennis Casey his' dad is Irish, you got

Bob Schmidt's mother is Irish too, I believe? There is a little connection. Bridget was raised on traditional Irish music, so you always played the whistle and the violin, since she was 2 years of age.

I.K: How important is Ireland for the Irish American?

Moving to America was probably the best thing I could have done. In a sense that, for me to write the way I write right now in my live. I needed to be separated from Ireland, you know what I mean. Not just physical, but also emotionally there had to be a separation. I moved to America to get a band together and at first it didn't work out and I thought I would have to go back to Ireland or I could stay here. So I stayed and for me it was good. For every type of writer you are and you try to create something what is sensually essentially nothing, to be separated from the one or thing that you love, I mean I love Ireland, but I needed to be away from it to realise how much I love it. And to get that passion of was it my father or would it be whatever. It needed that separation for me. The soul of our music is based on the Irish music; I think it's a universal thing!

I.K: So you didn't start the band and started making this typical Irish music, because you felt home sick?

What happened was, I was on a record label, a big one, Epic records, and I just got so pissed off of the whole industry, so that's when I decided to pick up my acoustic guitar, started to write for me and no one else but me. I wasn't going to try to please anybody anymore!

I.K: Wasn't it hard to find band members that felt the same way you do?

No, they came to see me at one point. I played alone at first, than I got a little band together, than I met Bridget and that's when things started to come together, like really come together, it was like a little vision going on. The way she played the fiddle and stuff, it was like: "I miss that! That's Irish!" I wanted to incorporate in something that was going on. Bridget and me have been together for a long time, than we met Matt, George and everybody else in the pub Molly Malone's in Los Angeles, that's how the fucking thing started.

I.K: Isn't it hard to hold on to a totally different culture than the culture you life in, because the Ireland culture is different than the American.

The thing is that I stay much time alone, when I'm in L.A. I have a little house there, when I'm not doing this, that's where I am, that's where you can find me. At home there is an Irish Bar 2 blocks down the street, they serve a great pint of Guinness. I take a walk down there, I hang out down there and all the bar men are Irish. I'm not into clubs; I don't feel connected with that. Because I am on the road so much, to me home is a house. It's not really a country; it's the house right now. You know my wife, my dog, that's it, that's where I live for when I come home. When you think about it, it's only a plane flight away, no matter where you come from; it's where your soul is. I like it in America; America has been good for me. You meet a lot of great people over there, the people I'm with right now. To think if I had never moved there, I would've never met them. I couldn't imagine that would be like.

I.K: But still it's a totally different culture! It's so aggressive; see what they are doing to the world. You see Mc Donald's, Burger King everywhere.

I never eat at Mc Donald's or Burger King. I fucking eat at home. You know I cook at home, I live at home, I write at home, and I surround myself with everything that is important to me, my books and music.

I.K: What books do you read?

A lot of the old Irish writers, I say old, but I mean like Sean Casey, James Joyce, and Becket. I love the way they can talk about the most morose things in the world, but yet make it sound like funnier, a loving melancholy the way they write. That's what I like in our music, our lyrics can often seem very sad, but the music is very uplifting. And the balance of both is what I like.

I.K: But why are your lyrics sad; are you sad in some ways?

Oh Yeah, I am dealing with stuff that I never dealt with all my live, I dealing with that now.

I.K: Such as?

Father, Mother.

I.K: You miss them?

Yes, my father died when I was very young and we never got the chance to express how we felt about each other, there is a lot of catching up to do. Even when he is not here anymore. I feel like by writing songs, which involve that, it helps me to communicate, when we didn't communicate. That is very important to me. Everything that I do now musically is important to me, even though it's great fun now, I need to as a person as Dave King to be very proud and express exactly how I feel about what I feel, I don't waste any time.

I.K: When you are on stage, are you thinking about your dad?

Oh yeah. It's an amazing thing, my father pumped petrol for a living, he pumped gas, we had no money, we where pour -blah- blah-blah-. We play songs and we have 12, 15 year old kids singing those words back, that I wrote about a man, that they would even know, that is to me a celebration of live. That, to me is wonderful.

I.K: And an honour to your father.

Absolutely, even know he didn't speak out when he was alive and in some way he is speaking out right now. Because somehow I'm feeling that I am writing on his behalf. That's the power of music.

I.K: What's your opinion about the religion problems in Ireland?

I think that religion; organised religion is the most fucking evil empire on the planet, in a sense that, this was not what God



was all about. God in my opinion, if there is a God, it's about love, it's in your heart, it's about being good to other people. It's not a fucking building where people are meant to go, to worship him. We worship him in our own individual way and we don't need to be fucking herding around like cattle or what ever.

I.K: That's what the church wants.

I don't agree with that, I really, really don't.

I.K: You go to church?

When I was a little boy I was an alter boy. The priest was very mean to me one day, really abusive. I remember, I was like eleven years of age and I said: "Is this what being a catholic all about" and I said: "Fuck you!" And I never went mass again.

I.K: Do you think that the problem will ever be solved in Ireland?

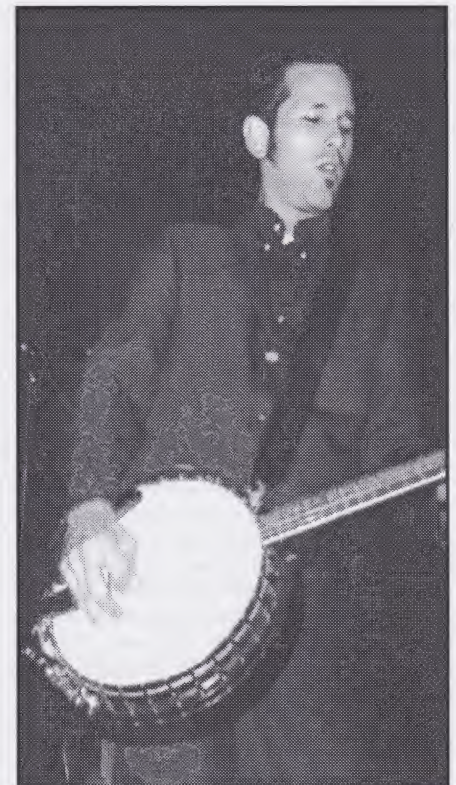
I can only hope. When you move away from a small island that's been ripped apart by violence and wars. When you move away and you drive in the desert for like 5 hours, you see how big the world is and than I begin to think: "Why are people, why do they want to kill each other because of a religion?" It's so sad.

I.K: Is it still about religion or is it all about money?

Now it's pure hatred. It's gone beyond religion. I'm a catholic and I want to fucking kill you! I really hope it will sort it self out. I've played Belfast a few times and Northern Ireland when I was younger and it's the most amazing experience in the world! Are you going to tell me that Catholics and Protestants aren't going to the same shows? Of course they are, and when you measured the love that was in that room that night, it was far out!

I.K: It's not the people, but the government has a problem with it.

Our government is the church, unfortunately. I could be very naïve here. I think it means something to blow a whole door in the fucking bigotry. I write about it a lot as well. I haven't been involved in politics recently, because I'm on tour all the time. But even in Dublin, I remember growing up, you heard about a killing maybe once a month. But now when I went back for Christmas, everyday, someone gets killed every fucking day! Not that there is lot terrorism in general.



I.K: There are a lot poor people in Dublin. There is a lot of theft and stuff like that. The thing is, the rich got very rich and the poor got poorer. It's a huge economical town and it's a great town. I tell you what: It's one of the towns I probably feel less safe in, than any other town I probably ever been to. If I go for a pint at night, have a few beers, walking home, I got a little bit nervous. I've been in a lot of fights, like I've been walking down the street and all of a sudden there are 3 or 4 guys on top of me and beating the fucking shit out of me, for absolutely nothing. A funny story, I was walking down the street and I was crossing the bridge, see 3 guys on the bridge and one of the guys turns around and slaps me right on my face, I fell down the 2 others jumped on top of me, they beat the shit out of me and then they realized I am there neighbor. And there go like: "Ohh sorry man, didn't know it was you" There is a lot of that, also a lot of drugs, heroine a big problem.



I.K: I've been in Dublin in the center for a week and it didn't notice any aggression. It can be, maybe not the center so much, but the neighborhoods. I come from a rough neighborhood and if I go away for a couple years at the time, they forget who I am probably. It's a melting pot. It's funny but I've never been in any trouble in Los Angeles or New York and those cities are much and much bigger.

I.K: What things did you take from Ireland to hold on to the Irish feeling, like food, drinks, you told earlier on about the books and the typical Irish products are they expensive in the U.S?

I am very lucky! I live in a house, a little wooden cottage, 2 blocks on my right hand there is the Irish pub and 2 blocks on the other side there is an import store and I know the lady, so I go down there to buy all my stuff. I'm not gone live in America forever, I don't think I can. I've been away from Ireland for over 12 years and I didn't see my mother for 8 years. I went back at Christmas. Because I had a problem with my green card, they didn't let me leave the country, my papers where out of state and all that. But they changed the law, the visa that I had enabled me to stay beyond when I was actually meant to leave, but than

they changed the law. It's sad now it doesn't matter if you're overstayed a lot, your fucked!

I.K: Are you now an American citizen?

Oh Now, I've got a green card. I'm not becoming an American citizen, I love America, it's been great for me, but I don't feel the passion to be an American citizen.

I.K: How do the American people react to your music?

They love it. We actually starting to break a lot of ground over there like on radio and stuff like that, which is amazing to me. We're not Limp Bizkit or Linkin Park or any of those bands.

I.K: No you're better!

We actually start to get radio play, that's phenomenal to me. When you are in a bar like this, playing in the corner and like 3 years later you get played on the radio, it's mind-blowing.

In England it's terrible. Tonight I met this English guy and we were talking about beer and he loves Guinness beer, but he doesn't drink it in England. Lake of passion I think.

I.K: You still got a passion for Ireland?

It will never go away. You come to a city like this or Amsterdam or Tilburg and you sit around and every time you think, wow this is the most beautiful city I've seen. Everywhere you go, amazing places. It's what's in your blood. To me Ireland is, I'm soaked in that tradition in a sense that, maybe I like to struggle that a lot of Irish singers sing about, like Luke Kelly from the Dubliners, to me is the greatest singer of all time. What I'm afraid of the way Ireland is going right now, it's booming and it's doing very well, that people are going to forget the struggle where they came from. Now I'm talking about the writers. A few of the writers are keeping that spirit alive. With my son I make a conscious effort to keep the energy and the like "I am very grateful were I am right now, but you know what" that type of thing. I need to keep that edge of sarcasm and humour alive. That's why I like those writers like Joyce and Cassy.

I.K: Is there any thing else you want to tell to the Dutch?

A fucking huge thank you! Last night we were in Amsterdam and it was a sold out show. 850 people, it was unbelievable. I was so nervous.

I.K: Why are you nervous? You play your music.

I've always been nervous about playing. I am still not very secure about what I do. I always want to do the best that I can, so I get nervous.

All of a sudden Dave makes some sort of yelling sound to Bridget Regan, who is on the other site of the street, coming out of the pub. She looks if she would have said, "Are you still yapping?" And she yells: "Aren't you done yet?"

"I'll be up in minute". Bridget is my drinking partner.

I.K: She misses you.

Bridget and me, we spend probably 22 or 23 hours together as friends, we drink together, we do everything together.

I.K: How is to have one girl in the band?

She is a really strong woman, she is very feminine, but at the same time she is very boldly.

I.K: One of the guys?

Well, not in sense of that she drinks as much as of we do or she curses as much as we do or she smokes as much as we do, she does it all, but very feminine. I like to spend time with her 'cause I know she is still a woman and I like to take her away from that some times. Than we go out to dinner and hang out

I.K: Deconstruction tour?

The Deconstruction tour really opened my eyes. I was terrified coming back to Europe. Mostly I write and I sing about this love and I am not with that love anymore, so coming back to sing about that love to the love. I'm a bit scared of doing that. When we did the deconstruction tour we played places like Tilburg, Birmingham and London, London was insane, I couldn't fucking believe it. At the beginning I didn't give a fuck who didn't like what I did and when we started going to other countries, I just said to myself just relax, do what you don't be worried if anybody likes it.

I.K: Is Guinness your favourite beer? Absolutely!

I.K: Is it cold?

Now, but it's al right.

I.K: We went to the Guinness brewery in Dublin and there they served cold Guinness, which was very nice. Never been there. I like the Guinness to be cold.

I.K: When we were in England they serve the Guinness warm.

together, just to make sure it's not all fucking madness. But she lives in a bus with 11 guys, so that's hard. She has done 3 Warped tours and if you ever heard of the Warped tour? It's so hard even for the guys, some bands can be real freaks, so that takes a lot of balls. I think it all comes right because she loves what she does. That overrules everything, because of her love for Irish music. She is one of the most passionate people I know. Sometimes people come up to her and ask why she doesn't move around on stage. Than she says "I just do what I do and that's it. If you want to look at moving people look at the idiot beside me." I just love Bridget.

I.K: When you're all on stage, you can see the joy and the passion for your music in everything you all do, and even off stage you're all nice people, normal people.

Some people they get too much too quick. I am 40 years of age. I have a 19-year-old son in England. I am a really nice guy; I'll always be a nice guy. People get blinded sometimes about what they do for a living. I'm not saying this is my job, but I am very thankful at people that they actually listen to my music. I just enjoy what I do and it's an honour. I'm in Holland right now. We all have that attitude; we're all very simple people.

I.K: You also play in Dublin?

That scares me, that really scares me. That's the thing, the love I write about. After this

we're going back to America for some radio shows and in October we're coming back here to Europe.

I.K: When you play in Dublin, does your mom come to see you play?

No, she is not to good. She took a stroke. When I went home, she didn't know whom I was. That sucked! I gave her a couple of whiskeys and she was okay.

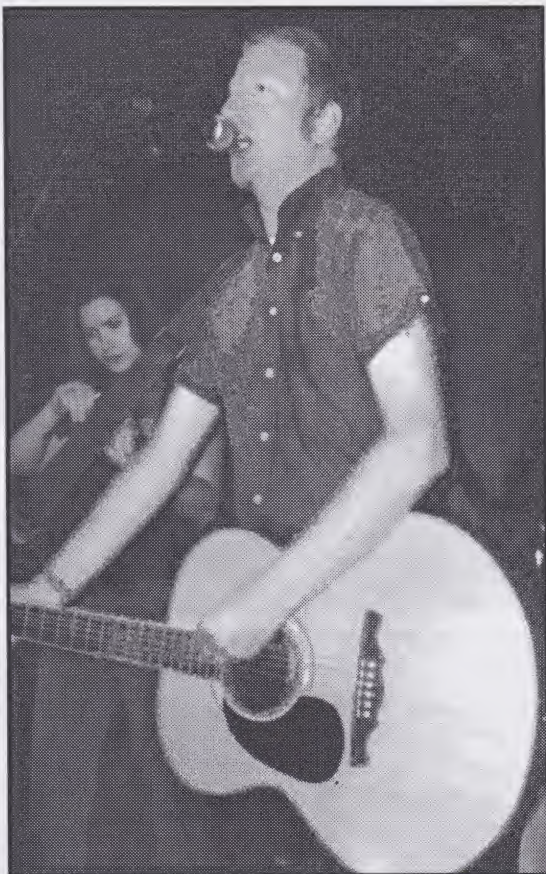
That was kind of amazing, my mother is almost immobile, she moves really slowly. One night I gave her a couple of whiskeys, cause she is not allowed to drink, but I was there and I good look after her. After a couple of whiskeys she stood up and she was full of live, that was fucking marvellous. I was thinking we have a day off on Monday and I think I'll fly to her to see her.

Dave wanted to get a new Guinness, so he asked us to come into the pub again, but we had to run to catch the last train home. Otherwise we could talk lots more.

Interview done by Carel, Wim & Evelien.

Written by Evelien.

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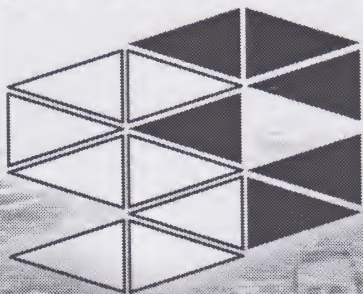
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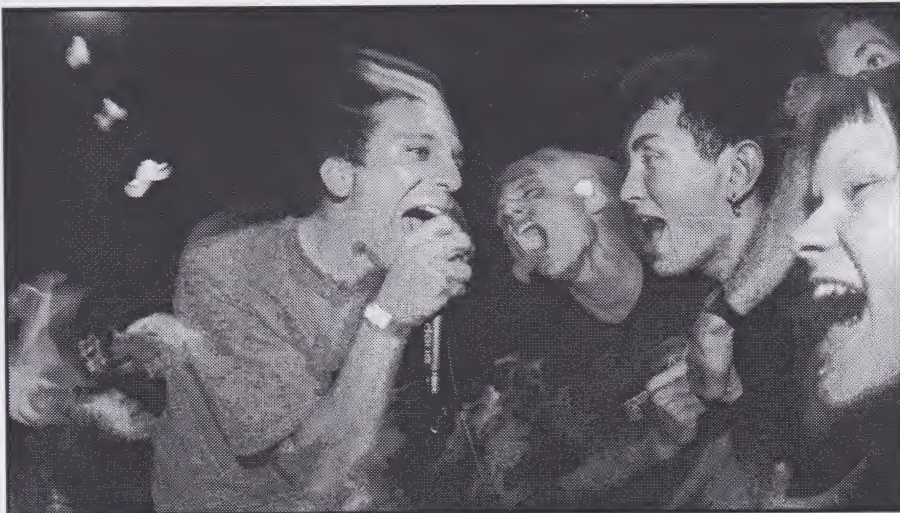


The first thing I thought when I heard "End Transmission", Snapcase's fourth and most recent album, was that they were back, and pushed their creativity to the limits. "Designs for Automotion", their previous effort, sounded rather uninspired to me. I wanted to know more about the way the band keeps themselves fresh and tries to push themselves to the musical limits. Singer Daryl had a bad cold, and seemed to be tired and exhausted from touring, although on the fourth of December (the day this interview took place) the band were just in their second week of the tour. Still as ill as he was, he wanted to continue talking to the press.

You often hear in reviews / interviews and bio's that Snapcase has renewed hardcore music, and has even influenced some of the bigger nu metal bands. When you read this, what's your first reaction to it?

It is always a nice compliment to hear that we influenced other bands. We, ourselves always try to stay creative and interesting. We try not to follow the trends that much. So it basically doesn't have that big of effect to us.

Do you feel you have to stay just one step ahead of the bands that are following you? Yeah, there's a little bit of pressure when it comes to this.



What influence does it have on the band, or maybe the songs you're about to write for the next album? Do any of the critics or reviews of your previous albums influence the way you write new songs?

No, not really. Most new influences we draw from bands we tour with, and that is again depending on the amount of years in between records. And besides the band that we tour with we get to hear new records all the time and they can always have an impact on how you are going to write new songs.

Do these new bands that draw influences from you also influence you back maybe?

That really depends on what band they are... some maybe, but only if we can use specific things to make it Snapcase, if you know what I mean.

Even the term "mathcore" pops up every now and then, describing your music, as if

your music was constructed like the monster of Frankenstein. To me you music sounds emotional and natural too, so "math core" would be an insult to me.

We don't really care about being defined and put into some category, so when people call it hardcore or metal core that's just fine by me.

But it might be people put labels on your music and they completely miss the point of Snapcase?

It can happen, sure, but a reviewer just need to define a specific band to make it understandable to outsiders, who haven't heard the record yet.

With the term math core, people seem to miss the point of the emotion that is also within your music.

It does bother us, because it suggests us following a specific formula, that's entirely untrue, since what ever comes to us, comes to us and we use it for our music.

So people seem to miss the emotional part of your music sometimes.

Yeah, it is true. We try to stay as original and creative as possible not being limited by a scene or a style and certainly not by a formula.

What's your fascination with machines and synthetic constructed things? Within some lyrics I get the idea you fear a technocratic world? I had the idea that you fear that computers / robot's are taking over?

I don't fear computers... I think they are often abused, just like lots of other things. They also have a negative aspect of them; I think which shines through our songs. On the other hand people can send emails all over the world that is definitely a positive technological advance. It can be abused like anything else, and when that happens people become like addicted to this machine. Also people will have more and more difficulties communicating face to face or one on one.

Is this idea of people locking themselves up behind their computers also a topic that returns in your songs?

Yeah, I think so. People seem to be less concerned about their own community and less concerned with their family, and people tend to become more and more concerned about the things that they own.... TV's and cars have more impact than good friends it seems these days on some people. Their personal image becomes the top priority.

And with your music and band you try to break away from that?

That's also a small part of what we do, yeah.

Would you consider this also to be the core of what Snapcase is? The music has these hard almost cold staccato rhythms and the lyrics and vocals have this emotional almost desperate image? Is that some sort of balance you're seeking?

Yeah, but I think with the new record, we have displayed a much more wider variety of emotions than on any of the other records. It's not heavy from start to finish. I don't like to give away too much of my personal life through the music, but at the same time all we do is really personal, nevertheless our songs are open and artistically enough to be interpreted in different ways.

Is that also the reason you want to keep the lyrics abstract as they are, because otherwise people might see through this and get to see your personal life, and would get too close to you?

That too... but I also think songs are more artistic when they can be interpreted in more than one way, and that they are not that obvious.



What do you think about this old school way of writing songs with a straightforward political message or a song about being straight edge?

To me that's too cheap. You can believe in animal rights and politics, but you need to get to the base of things. And the base is more on an individual level, and you need to inspire people to change within themselves, and not just change because everybody else is changing too. You can't just be part of something; you have to be part of yourself first.

So the message is basically really positive within your lyrics? People should form their own opinion...

Yes, I mean... sort of. But also we need to get away from the idea that people became straight edge because it is a movement and it became popular some time ago. To them it is an identity, and years later there is something else. People need to understand why they are doing things in the first place.

And do you also notice with your new album being more varied that you're trying to break away from the hardcore scene, which seems to be quite stagnant at times?

You know, what I don't like about music is that when you have a band that has become really popular like, let's say, Blink 182 or something, then there are so many bands that come after that with the same sound, the same production. They are nothing but copies and get manufactured,

and do the same thing over and over. To me that is not artistic, and that happens in the underground too, within the hardcore and punk. The most interesting bands are the ones people will talk about in ten years; they are the ones that were truly original.

In order to get influences yourself, you will probably listen to a wide variety of bands?

Yeah, we do, but coming back to our new record, the good thing this time is that all five of us were involved in the creation in some way, and obviously we have five different musical influences, so it all helps with the creation of something new.

What is "End Transmission" about? Is there a concept in the album itself or is there a concept within all four of the albums when you compare them?

With the writing of "End Transmission" it evolved around an idea of futuristic society. It is about an imprisoned culture. It is also about the poorest people within this society, they are the most fearless; they are the ones going through risking their lives in order to save the species and forming a culture of escape.

Does it fit in with the idea of the poor people being the most fearless, since rich people, or people who own the most have more to lose according to them?

Yeah, that, and also that richer people, or whatever you'd like to call them are more distracted with other things.

SNAPCASE >

But you don't think they are more afraid? That maybe, but to my idea they don't value life as much as they value all their possessions. They are so distracted by these possessions they simply cannot see passed that and see the problems that there are with this way of life, or the problems in this world as a whole. Poorer people are ahead of these things, they as a person are the only thing in this world, and they are less distracted and can see through these things.

And talking about freedom, not being distracted and communicating face to face, touring must be the ultimate experience for you, instead of either recording your own albums or listening to music at home. This is just more natural isn't it?

Yeah, except for that when we return home after a long tour, I don't want to go out that very minute to see other bands play and experience what they have to say.

And what I said earlier about this idea of a concept. You mention the general idea behind "End Transmission", but is that one also in some way connected to the other three full lengths?

You know, "End Transmission" is not as connected to the previous albums as they were with each other. The new one stands on it's own when compared artistically to the others. "End Transmission" is a record that we wanted to be different and to stand apart. It really almost signifies a new beginning for Snapcase.

And has the lyrical evolution of the band been in phase with this development? Do you learn from every release?

Oh yeah, always! It is always a learning process. Just when you talk about "Designs For Automotion" we think it is a solid records, but it could have been more adventures. So with the new record we tried to put a bit more of that into it. And I know we have been more creative this time.



And how when you have recorded a record and put it out. You'll probably say it is the best record to date and you have put everything into it. How do you look back to that? To my opinion "Designs For Automotion" is the least of your albums. Our favourite albums are "Progression Through Unlearning" and "End Transmission", and we just think with "Designs" we just didn't push ourselves hard enough. It is just a very save record, but I still enjoy playing some of the songs live.

Have these songs also changed during the years on stage?

Nah, they haven't changed that much.

And if you would have the chance to do that specific record all over again, would it sound completely different?

It would sound different, not totally, but we would change some things.

Interview by Martijn Welzen

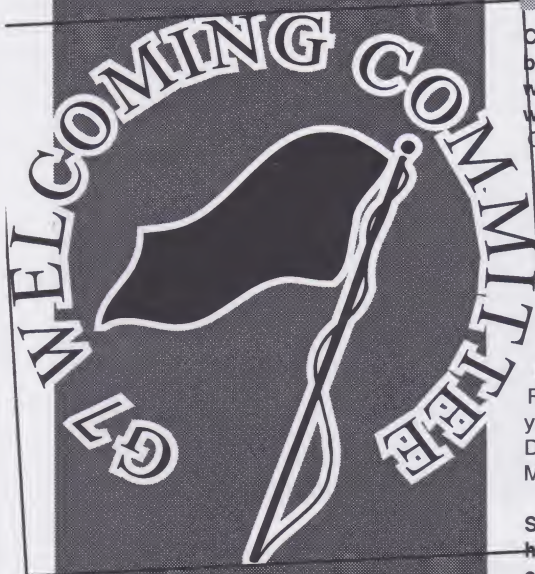
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G7Welcomingcommittee; an independent media outlet, which produces and distributes music by and/or for people working for radical change. They've got a list of speakers, writers, bands that include I spy, The Weakerthans, Randy, The (International) Noise Conspiracy, Propagandhi, Howard Zinn, Noam Chomsky, Ward Churchill, and much more. The name comes from the G7 as the group of 7 richest and most industrialized nations of the world. Consider them the biggest collection of assholes in one large room. The G7Welcomingcommittee is to tell them, with words and actions, what we think of their power and neo-colonialism, and that people are willing to fight back.

This is an interview about the structures and opinions inside their collective;

Could you tell us something about the beginning, when and how you came up with the idea, and the developments within the group.

G7 was started in 1997 by Chris, Jord and Derek Riel (not the Derek we have now). They saw a need for a label that promoted activist music, or music by activists, and decided that they'd like to fill it. As well, there was a desire and necessity to work outside the normal hierarchical systems, so they started g7 as a collective. 3 years ago, the other Derek and I (Lorna) started here. Derek Riel left shortly after that. Hired Deanna a year ago. Recently big change ups. Deanna left, Jord left, hired Morgan and Marc.

Since you are very involved with politics, how do you choose your bands, speakers and writers? Do they have to be at a certain level of political involvement?

Hmm... I guess they do. We have kind of an unspoken standard of what we like. There's no formula that we go by, but I think that we are all kind of on the same page with stuff, so we know it when we see it. But yeah, we recognize a big range of politics, and of course, the music is still extremely important. I mean, I could write political songs (prob?), but they would suck, and I'm not sure that anyone wants to hear a novice accordion player... so, it's the music combined with the politics.

Do you also sign bands that aren't completely on the same level with your principles? For example because they're (somewhat) more popular.

We haven't done that. I'd be surprised if that was something we did in the future.

Are you also involved with other activities, other than the punk/hardcore movement? For example the Vegan/Animal rights movement.

I wouldn't say that any of us are super active in particular movements—we're not key members of any groups (unless covertly???). Derek was one of the main people involved with PAAL (people activating for animal liberation) here in the 90's, and continues to do some PETA work. Morgan is a Food Not Bomber. Chris and Jord do Propagandhi, but I suppose that's the "punk/hardcore movement"? I don't know what that is... I was one of the original mondragon collective here, and worked there until recently. Also help run our building, the old market autonomous zone. That's not a movement, but living, I guess. As a group, we contribute to an alternative economy—working in a parecon business (participatory economics); functioning as a collective, and promoting radical politics and good people.

How do you divide the responsibilities of G7welcoming committee, like the promotion, graphic design, and so on?

G7 has always been a collective, but in the last few years, we've spent more energy trying to train each other on the tasks we each understand. Work was initially divided by necessity rather than the idea of balanced job complexes. For example, when I started, no one was doing accounting work regularly, so there was lots of catch up. I did that. We just saw needs, and stepped up to them. Now we've actually divided the work into committees that will rotate every so often. This allows everyone to train on the different, more glamorous aspects of the work, as well as learning the sometimes boring, but necessary work like accounting and sales. Still, only Derek cleans the toilet.

What would you say is the best, most potential band on G7?

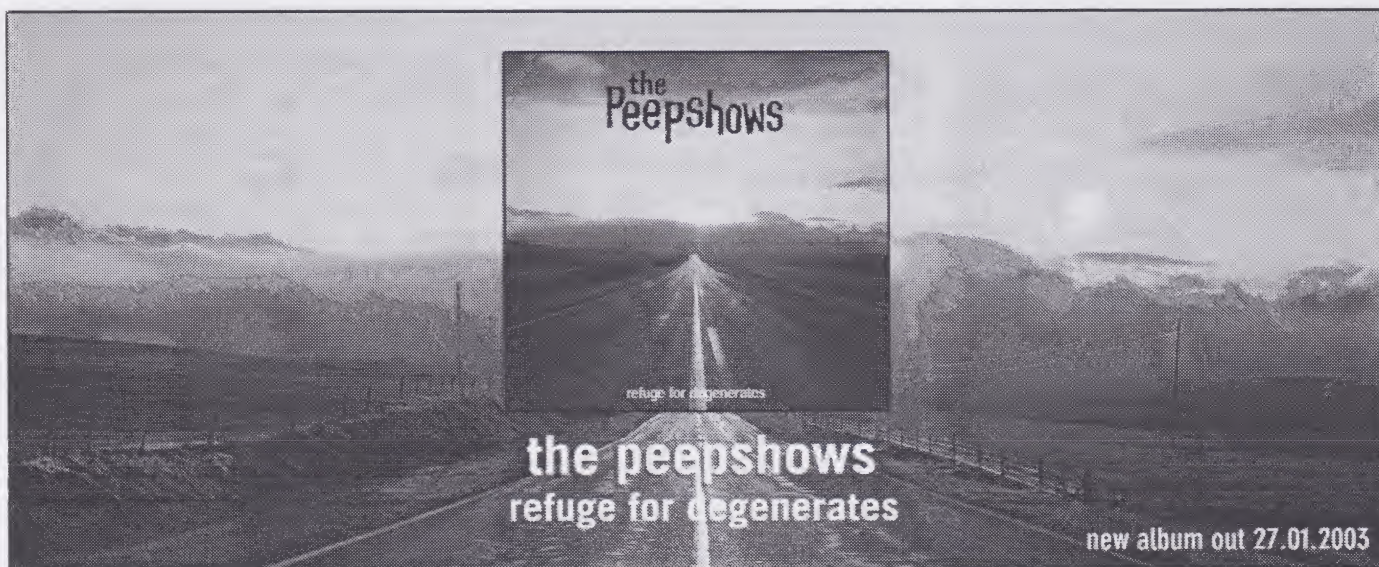
Potential? Not sure that I think that way about the bands. I think they are all capable of good success—good tours and reasonable sales, if that's what you mean. Not sure that we measure potential in the same way other, bigger labels would. Anyway, I love all the bands, so I'm not choosing a favourite.

(A little corny maybe but..) how do you see G7 going from now?

Novelty shirts and world domination.

Interview by Bart





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Convict

It is a long time we've heard from Convict. You've been away for about 3 years. Where have you been, what was the reason..?

Well, sometimes bands think that when they are headed to a big tour they have to release a record before they go. The result is a pity. That is definitely not the way it works in our opinion. We are practicing, rehearsing our songs until we think they are good enough to put on an album.

Don't you think you are modifying/adjusting your tracks too long..?

Maybe, maybe that is a bit stubborn, but we don't mind. That's what we always have when it comes down to Convict. We recorded this album on our own equipment, so we want to release something only when we are fully convinced about the result. Sometimes you hear albums from bands, and you think: "Ah, that's a pity, that would sound a lot better when you rehearse that a couple of times..". I'm not pretending we are better or something like that, I'm only saying that we are fully satisfied with our product.

And this is the best you have to offer..?

Nah.. the best. It is a certain thing that we are fully satisfied and we are proud at the album we've made..!

Tell us more about the new album..!

The new album is called "24/7". Mainly 2 labels were very interested: Century Media and Laurens from I Scream Records always told us that when we were ready with a new album, he would be honored to release it. So the choice fell to I Scream. The record will also be brought out at V2 records under license. These guys are one of Europe's biggest independent record label/distributor and they were very enthusiastic to work with us. So we have a nice push in the right direction..!

Convict is breaking through. After a 3 year silence around these Belgian guys they are back with a new album, called "24/7". With the clear vocals of singer Bert, Convict is often called the Belgian Ignite. So, a new album in stock, a three year silence, big plans for the big audience... I think it is time to listen what this band has to say.... After a good show at European Hardcore Party in Maastricht we found some time to have a chat with Convict vocalist Bert.

Wow V2..! Does that mean you'll get a big promotion, videoclip, singles and the whole "big band" thing..?

Well, yeah, sort of.. Tomorrow we are going to shoot a video in Leuven at "t Sportkot". This is a really pleasant thing. Just shoot a video with a crew and stuff, really exiting; it is going to be cool..! And then we have to get it broadcasted on national television. I don't know whether it will work out or not. I'm not making any illusions to myself.. The music business is a very unpredictable thing. I'm sure that we don't have a no1 hit-album, but I'm convinced that there are some tracks on it that have the potential strength to be interesting for a bigger audience.

So you have the ambition to attract a bigger audience..?

Well, I would lie if I said I hadn't. We are all listening to hardcore a lot, but I think we can arouse curiosity in people who like a band as Jimmy Eat World.

It is a fact that those "emo-bands" you just mentioned are getting quite popular nowadays. Are you guys, the band, influenced by those bands during your state of being away..?

Absolutely. We all grew up with Rock and Roll music. We like to hear bands like Nirvana, Foo Fighters, Ramones and the ever-rocking Jimmy Eat World. Hardcore music sneaked a bit in for us. We are not a hardcore band like Backfire or Right Direction. A lot of people like to compare Convict with Ignite. But I don't think Ignite is hardcore. That band brings pure emotion. Music is pure emotion. I saw Jimmy Eat World a couple of months ago at this Belgian festival, Pukkelpop. That band is pure emotion. And then I think in myself: "That is something a lot of hardcore-bands can do too." Those guys keep playing their own thing too.. They are very popular, but they know where they come from, they keep doing their own thing..!

When you put such a time and effort into an album, aren't you afraid that you get negative reviews..? Because of the fact that you were away for quite a while; When you put out a record each year, I think you can afford a negative review once..

First of all, the music that you make, the music that I make, I'm doing it for myself. Every song gets born in our rehearsal studio and WE say it is good enough to release it. A band who says that they are making music for the audience is lying. And there are a lot of bands which records still sell quite well, even when they have a negative review.



Convict

And what attracts you in "the hardcore-scene". Because of your ideas of reaching a bigger audience the contact with "the hardcore-scene" will narrow down....

Meeting people. Making friends around the whole country and even outside our borders. I come from a town called Oost Malle. The friends that I have over there are having their beers every weekend at the local bar. Now I am in Maastricht next weekend somewhere else. I can go to a show, I some meet people, get some drinks with them, throughout the whole Benelux. That's great..!

How important are lyrics for Convict..?

Completely not.

But what do you tell in a lyric..?

Well, the lyrics are very personal. For about two years ago my father passed away. On our new album are two songs inspired by the death of my father. "Passed Away" and "Final Destination" are two songs where I clearly refer to the loss of someone who is very important to you. Once we've played a show and we just added "Passed Away" to our bill. Afterwards a guy came to me and said he completely could identify himself with that song. He also just lost his father and we could share our emotions. That is a wonderful thing. And I thing from that point of view lyrics are important, but very personal. I write all the lyrics for the band. I get most inspiration from the things happening around me. Last time I saw on television those people from Kosovo escaping war with no place to go. That's a real sad thing and hits me hard.

What are the next steps of Convict.. Future plans..?

Well, it is hard to say of course, but our priority is right now to get our video on national television.

What if your new album is a complete hit. Your record label pushes you to release another album in 2003. The pressure on the band rises....

Hmm.. I think we have to be rational here. We're on a good label now, and I suppose that will never happen. Our new album is really potential and we'll keep all strings in our own hands..!

Any last words/comments..?

Music is an emotion. Thank you guys very much.

Interview by Martijn Welzen
and Joost van Ingen

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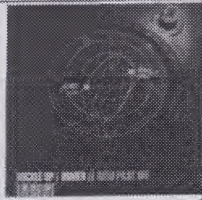
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COLUMN

GUESTWRITING BY: DAAN M.



Two Times Soup...

Two different moments, in two different worlds. Two different environments with different people. But almost the same. Because it is two times soup.

Soup 1



It is a Wednesday evening somewhere in November. It is raining softly. I am ride on my bike towards my girlfriend to have dinner together. On my way to her house I want to do a last shopping for that day, just quickly, like everything else in this society must be done 'just quickly'. (I definitely am a good citizen being always in a too fucking hurry (uhuh)). At high speed I cross the market-square when somebody calls my name. I look around and discover some friends standing in the middle of the square in front of a big tree that's already decorated with too early Christmas lights: to let us remember the warmth, in this cold city! Gathered around a carrier-tricycle with two huge pans of warm and steaming soup on it, they welcome me very friendly and without having to ask I get a cup of delicious and 'good' soup. It is the Food-Not-Bombs-Soup. Earlier that day they visited the local restaurants to collect some spare breads and vegetables, for the good cause, to share it with the 'poor'. Also the 'rich (-er)' are offered some good soup, garnished with a short social message. When I finish mine I realize the strength and goodness of this initiative. So, I joined the group and forgot my girlfriend waiting for me with her soup for a little while. Caught by enthusiasm I start to tell a couple of strange passengers about the deliciousness of this soup. Unfortunately the most of them are in a hurry or claim to be on their way to their meal at home, at least they say. After some minutes four young kids cross the market-square by skateboard and stop when they discover us standing in front of the big (too early and too commercial) Christmas tree. I offer each of them a cup of soup and tell them about the 'How and Why' of this action. They tell me they were on their way to the local music-store to buy tickets for some concert. But our conversation lasted until after closing time so they had to wait until tomorrow to buy the tickets, too bad. When they leave I start to think about going to my girlfriend's soup. But on the moment I want to leave the group the four young kids return. Proud and with a big smile they open up two big brown paper bags filled with fritters they just bought. In reward for the soup this four little guys spend their money for the concert tickets on the fritters to surprise us with a delicious 'dessert'.

Soup 2

Last summer I went to Venezuela for almost two months. My girlfriend was doing her practical there. When she finished it we travelled the country for about seven weeks. Sitting in the bus on our way back towards the airport of Caracas I started to remember all the things we saw and experienced. Too much to tell right now. There the world is so different from our European world, I almost can't believe it is on the same peace of earth! Very often my eyes started to hurt

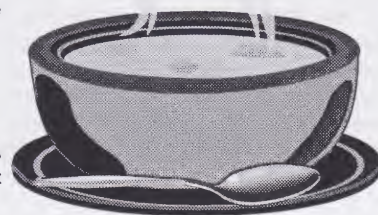
because of the bright colours and all the new impressions and images. Sitting in that bus I wanted to find out what situation or experience I found the most typical for my period in Venezuela. I was looking for a subject to combine a lot of ideas I had about this country. I decided to write a song called Sancocho. Sancocho is a joining of the words: San Cocho. The exact story behind Saint Cocho is unknown to me. But what I do know is that he is remembered as someone giving food to the poor. Even today Venezuela is a country that is used on a large scale by the West, especially by some huge bank-corporations and some international oil-companies, so there are still a lot of poor people to feed. Also: the oil-industry is under control of just a very few and very rich families: the money disappears in the wrong pockets. Besides the oil also maize / corn could be a good Venezuelan export-product. But the American farmers who are subsidised by their government are able to sell their maize / corn on the world-market for almost nothing. Even in Venezuela the American corn is cheaper than the Venezuelan one! That means a hard and difficult living for the Venezuelan farmers!

At this moment Hugo Chavez governs Venezuela. Chavez is supported by the biggest part of the (poor) population. The political-situation in Venezuela is very hard to understand for a European guy like me. One of the reasons is the fact that the media is owned by the rich, so they have full control on what is shown to the outer world. They decide what we see on television. They make the news. Only their vision is sold to the international press. They sell an opinion, that is too easily adapted by too many of us. It is a puzzle: where to look for the truth? If there is one (!) I know for sure that it isn't in the media. In forming my own view upon the 'truth' of Venezuela I start to think about all those stories I heard from very different people about this country's history and politics. It's a fact that Venezuela has to deal with a large and very corrupt bureaucratic system. It has one of the best fundamental laws but with a corrupt jurisdiction they don't mean a thing. To sum up things up: it will be difficult to give this country the strength again to create an own identity and to take stand against all its international creditors and exploiters!

Back to the soup. Everywhere in Venezuela you can come upon Sancocho. Along the highway, at the beach, under a waterfall, at a sidewalk, in the park, on a mountain and in the jungle. Everywhere. It's like a ritual. Imagine a big old American car playing very loud music: a hot salsa or meringue. In front of it there is a huge pan on a little fire, it's filled with water from the river to make soup. The soup contains various ingredients differing from vegetables to big pieces of meat. Sancocho is the making of a huge pan of the soup while drinking beer. A lot of beer. Listening to music. A little bit of dancing. And playing domino. Sancocho is a party of the people: a party everyone can make, with almost nothing! Sancocho is laughing in hard times! Sancocho takes a while: the Venezuelan people are never (!) in hurry. They have all the time there is to have a little celebration. A celebration that ends with eating the rich soup. It makes them sober enough to travel back home. Like they give a damn about driving sober, haha. Everyone celebrates Sancocho, at any time, because the most of them haven't a daily job. And with a stomach filled with soup and beer living their lives seems a little bit easier!

Daan.

For sharing thoughts, questions and ideas you can mail me at D.Mol@student.tue.nl



A while ago I was surprised when I heard '23', the first full-length of Fear My Thoughts. We invited them to play on an Inside Knowledge show a while ago and these guys played a good set. Unfortunately the violist was not at this show. This beautiful instrument gives the music of Fear My Thoughts an extra dimension, which results in great original songs. It's time that Fear My Thoughts gets some more attention so we've done this interview. If you want to contact them, just surf to <http://www.fearmythoughts.com>.

Please introduce the band F.M.T. and the members.

There's Pat and Markus playing the guitar, Lex at drums, Bart abusing the bass, Lisa "violent" violin and me, Matt, voice.

How come you have a violin player in your band? How are this band and this line-up born?

I start answering the violin question: we just tried how it would sound and we were very happy with the result. That's it. Besides that we really appreciate to experiment.

The story of the line up is quiet a long (and sometimes boring one) so I'll cut it short: originally Pat, Lex and, more or less, me and Bart started the band. We played old-school at that time. After our first demo we decided to take another guitar player since there are just more possibilities. Unfortunately the guy we had chosen was not only lazy and slow but also very dumb. After a time there was so much distress that we had to dump him. So Markus joined the band and started transforming our musical style (ok, we were already moving away from the oldschool genre, but he gave the final impulse...)

Much later, on a way to a concert in Munich, we found Lisa chained to a gas station. We felt sorry for her and just took her with us...

I saw you live once with a Cannibal Corpse shirt of '92. Are you already banging your head for all those years?

I for myself started listening to metal at the age of 12. This was in 1990. So I kept to that music for really a long time, that's true. But there was a point where metal didn't had anything to offer for me anymore. The music was very good (well, a lot of it) but there wasn't anything like a "message", so I came to hardcore (to be honest: the women in the hardcore scene were much cuter than the "metal-leather-ladies" that reminded me more of Xena or other Amazones than anything else... ;-D, secondly long hair needs much more care than a "hardcore-haircut"... and thirdly: I prefer wearing sneakers to those huge "metal-boots". I think, I'd be too weak to do more than 10 steps with them...)

Are you guys big fans of movies like Blair Witch Project because you used samples of it on your full-length? Do you want to create with your music such an atmosphere like it could be used as a background tune for movies like Blair Witch Project?

No, not really. Actually I don't really like the movie. It was just a thing that was born through the boredom of our drum-boy Lex. He was sitting at home (like all the fucking drug heads do, you know :-D) playing with his computer. The result was the -23- intro. We liked it so we decided to take it.

I don't think, that one could use our music as a background tune (at least I hope no one would use it, since we hope or want that the person, who listens to our music, really gets into it. I don't think that it would be possible if you'd had to concentrate on a plot of a film and our music as well...)

I made this connection more because of the ambiance in your music and the ambiance of the movie (evil and terrifying)... Are you playing, because of your sound, besides the hxc shows also metal shows?

So far we played almost everywhere we could (actually we even played on a diy hippy fest. It was awesome although I thought, they'd beat us with their acoustic guitars...) but as far as I can remember we haven't played a real metal show so far. Well, it depends on how you feel about dillinger escape plan (we played with them but I consider them to be hardcore).

What are your main influences?

Ask every one of us and you'd get 6 different answers. But I guess that the bands, we are often compared with, are something like a good essence: converge, old cave in, shai hulud eg... but as I said, there are too many influences since we all like to listen to such a variety of bands from radiohead to dillinger escape plan...



You're very talented musicians. How did you gain all those skills?

You gotta ask the skilled ones... I don't really see myself as very skilled. The others just practiced a lot and started playing in bands very quick. I think through playing with others and creating something that you like, you learn best.

Please explain your release titles... -23- and vitriol.

We titled the first release (which actually isn't really the first one. Before that we had a mini cd titled *sapere aude* (dare to think)) -23- because we had no idea what we should name it like. Fortunately Pats brother was very much into the illuminati conspiracy at that time. He was counting every numbers he could get and was always very astonished or afraid when the result was 23. To make a little fun of and with him, we decided to title our cd like that (I hope you're not too disappointed now...).

Vitriol was a poison, which was used in the ancient times to kill kings (or other persons that were uncomfortable, but since it wasn't too

expand their label. We had the choice between them and another label. But we thought that they would care more about us since they were really enthusiastic. So it was done. And we never regretted it so far...

What's your favorite lyric and why?

Written by me or by others?

If you mean mine, it's very difficult to answer, since I'm never too content with my lyrics as soon as I read them after a while (maybe it's because I write them about things that are moving me at this time. Reading them after a time is like looking back on how I felt at that time. Sometimes, well actually very often, I see things different after a while. So I'd like to change the lyrics, which again is impossible...) I like lyrics that are inspiring. It doesn't matter whether the inspiration is emotional (eg if someone writes about a feeling that he/she had had and it's moving you. A very good example is definitely hot water music "driving home" I really felt that this lyric was written for me, since I felt, more or less the same... actually most of their lyrics are very, very good) or political (catharsis, refused and so on...).

When I read your lyrics I see most of the lyrics are very personal. 'Killed for profit' is a very clear lyric about the meat industry. Lately there has been a lot of media attention in Holland about the Animal Liberation Front. Do you believe in direct action against the exploitation of animals?

Well it depends on what you do. As Sven from reply once put it: "if you're hungry and you've got kids to feed, you'd even work as a butcher... (well it's not exactly what he said, but you know what I mean...) I think it's stupid, do demolish a butcher store, or even beat a butcher. But it's ok for example to put posters or stickers

on the shop window (actually anything that makes people think about their manners, otherwise there won't be a change. Every revolution that has been made in a violent way will provoke a counterrevolution...)

Direct action... Pat and me we sometimes go in the forest near our homes and sow down the hunters towers. It's fun: no one gets hurt and the hunters have a hard time building it up again (besides that, we get a lot exercise...)



Sometimes I feel that it would be a need to go into the testing laboratories and get out all the animals. But I know that this wouldn't help. The kept animals would be substituted by others very quickly and so nothing would change. As I said, I think that it's more useful to go the longer way (which is changing the manners) than using violence...

How's the scene in Germany lately?

German? This is really a thing, which I can't answer, since there's a huge variety (and unfortunately I don't know the whole scene...) I could tell you some criticism that I have about some things. But this would be my personal statement and not one that I write in the band's name:

Some people take themselves and the scene way too serious. And they take that whole straight edge/ vegan thing way too serious. It's ok to be straight and it's an enormous thing to live a vegan life. But there's, in my opinion, no need to make a big fuzz of it all the time. I mean do these guys, that you can hardly see, because of all the vegan and xxx patches, have nothing else to hold onto, or to be proud of? As I said: it's ok to be drug free, or whatever, but it's my personal decision and as soon as I reduce myself to vegan straight edge it's just so poor (writing this, i found out that it is hard to express myself to that topic in English. So if there are any doubts, questions, or what ever, write to me...)

Another thing, which I'm sick of, is that bleed-in' gossip which is going on all of the time (mostly by the all ready mentioned persons...): do a joke in the wrong time in front of

cheap, I guess it was mainly used for wealthier persons).

So there's one interpretation. We chose this title, because we liked the sound of the word. (again I hope you're not too disappointed...)

Tell me about your relation with your label. How did you come in touch with the guys of Let it Burn Records?

We met them after a show, and they told us that they wanted us to sign as they planned to



the wrong audience and you get it going (I was acting like one of these "real metal heroes" disguised with a tight trouser, a wig on my head and so on. And said something like "the next song is called: i wash my fore-skin with beer..." the other day there where rumors, like "are they still a straight edge band?" (we actually never quoted to be one...)) I think, and hope, you know what I mean and I hope, too, that I made it clear that not every-one has the mentioned behavior. It's just something that really pisses me off. Sometimes i feel like living in a small village where people don't have too much to talk about, so they start talking about others (and keep themselves so busy through that, so they don't have to think about their own faults/manners, narrow mind...)

It's just so boring and so uncreative... I hope you didn't get that wrong, but, as I said, it's something that really concerns me... Yeah, I understand your point. Gossip is flowing around everywhere. Lately I didn't go to that many shows like I was used to go and it was like I was a little bit tired of the whole scene. Music is very important for me and there're a lot of nice friends I met because of the common interest in ass kicking music but there's so much more to enjoy in life. What are the things you enjoy in life?

Well, there are few: Of course the most important is sharing moments with my girl-friend and friends. Then definitely, making music (actually this one's connected to the first one...). I also like to go out for walks with my dog. It's a good opportunity to think about things that are on my mind. So this is a very reflecting thing.

The thing I enjoy most is cycling / freeriding. This is the most awesome thing to do: it keeps you in shape (which is quiet important for a guy at my age...) and it's the same as walking with the dog: the time you spent, cycling up the hill is so very useful to reflect your life and your behavior... downhill, of course there's a shitload of adrenaline!! Wicked!!!! (another positive

thing is, that the chance of breaking bones or other injuries is relatively high. Through that you always have an excuse for not working...) I think one can easily say, that everything, which is connected to being in nature is something I enjoy very much. It's the positive thing on being raised in a village...

Doesn't that aspect make you look negative towards the future? It seems that the human race is not treating the nature with respect but exploiting it.

You're absolutely right with that and I think that we won't last too long if we continue like that. There's a good comic about that topic (I think it's from Gary Laarson): two planets meet each other. One doesn't look healthy so the other wants to know what's wrong. The first one responds: I think I do have homo erectus...

As long as money stands above our nature we won't be able to change that whole thing. In a way it's so strange. We are a being that belongs to nature but somehow we always try to live without it, or try to make things better than they already are (whether it's genetically modifying or what ever). So maybe we, too, have to cope with our low self esteem as human beings, accept our fate and live a life that is natural...

Actually this is a hard topic to write about: in a way I don't want to be too pessimistic and point out that there are efforts made to solve existing problems but on the other hand



everything goes too slow to stop the decay. Again, it's on us. It's everyone's decision, every single day. Just a little example: if you can go to your workplace by bike, do it. One has to overcome the laziness and save the recourses that are left. And it's important that one shouldn't wait until "the others" move. They are waiting for you! So go and act!!! (after all it's you, you see in the mirror every single morning, not the others...)

That's true. I can also catch myself doing these things. Since I have my driver license I became very lazy with the excuse that it's very good for me right now to get more driving experience ;-) Maybe we should complain less about the rest of the world and try to make a change ourselves. If you could change a thing about yourself, what would you change?

I think I'd change my bad manner of talking way too much...

There's nothing in one's behavior one couldn't change. I always try to change the things I'm not content with. Right now, it would be getting more consequence in being stricter with myself. But as I said, if you really want to change something you can do it. You just need the will to go for it, even if it hurts.

What can we expect from Fear My Thoughts in the near future?

We're just about to finish the calendar with nude pictures to enrich our merchandising variety, after that we're about to record the new songs (this will be around January...) and finally we're planning a tour around Easter were we'll hit belgium, holland, northern germany, eastern germany, hungary, austria and switzerland. I'm really looking forward to this.

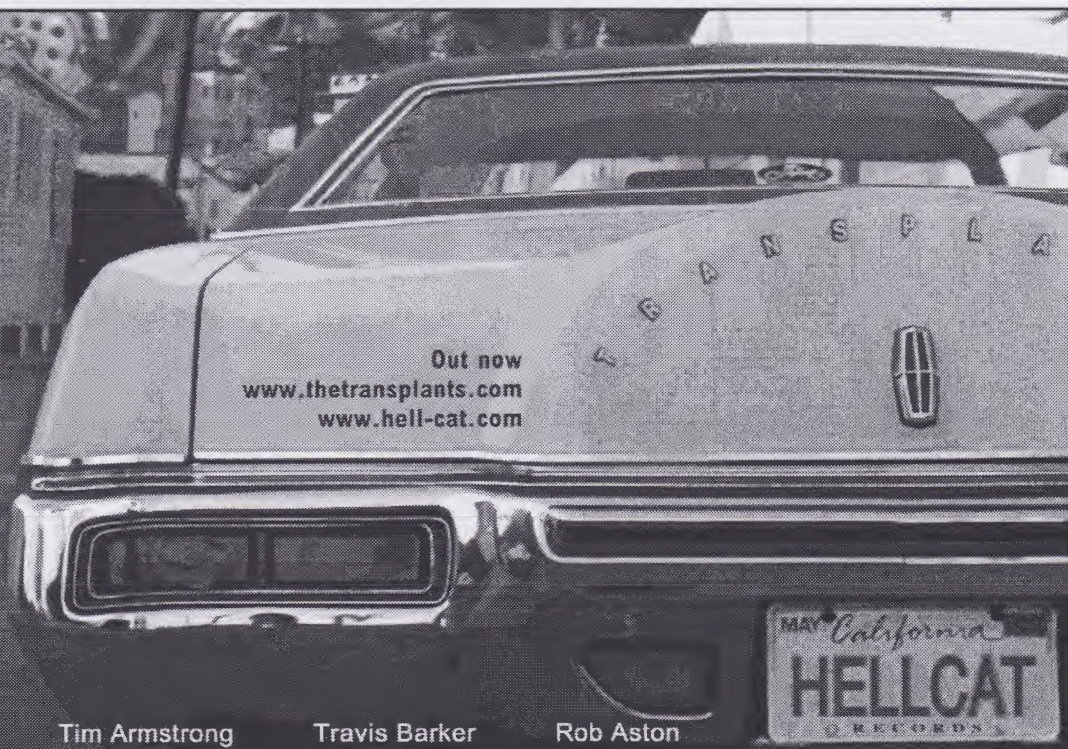
OK, thanks for sharing your thoughts. Have you got any last comments? Things you want to get off your chest?

Thank you very much for your interest and your patience. If there are some things in my answers any reader of you is somehow not too content with, let me know. Write to me, maybe we have the chance to sort out any problem occurring.

Finally i want to say that it is so important in our modern society to be active in any way. Whether it is by reading books that try to look behind the facades, or by getting active in talking to people that are just going their every day ways (work eat sleep) and never ask why they do it. Whatever you do, try to make people think. Our thoughts are free! So far no one has managed to permit people to think. The only way to stop this is getting us passive, getting us lazy. If we stop dreaming our life (and I'm not talking about material dreams like an own car or whatever) if we stop wondering, if we stop questioning, we stop existing. We stop being individuals. Every one of us is a magnificent creation. We should treat each other with respect and try to live our dreams. Step out of the mainstream get away from people that try to sell you their goods by cheating on you through saying that you'll become an individual if you posses a certain good. Individuality is not bought it can only be lived... Take care and thank you very much.

Interview by Paco Weekenstroo

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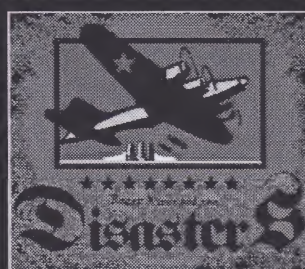
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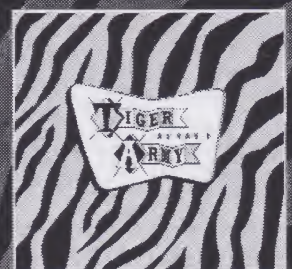
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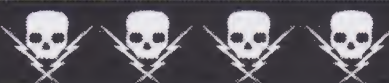
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From the biggest city in Southern Germany hail some labels, several bands, zines and a booking office. When getting in touch with all of these two names kept on popping up Chris and Marco... both playing in the great band Paint the Town Red, but also working on Join the Teampayer records / Avocado booking (Marco) and Let it Burn Records / Keep the Faith zine and the band Phoenix Rising (Chris). I wanted to interview both of them about the things they do for hardcore, and this is what they had to say.

Can you tell at first a bit more about the Munich HC scene? To me as an outsider I only think about beer, football and the "krimi" Derrek when someone mentions Munich. Are there more bands, labels, zines than the ones you are running?

Chris: Well the hardcore scene here in Munich is small. Small but tricky, he he he. No, seriously, there are not too many kids involved but the ones who care are really into it. The Kafe Kult Club is a good example. It used to be called Kulturstation in earlier days and for more than 10 years people have set up punk / hardcore shows there and still do. Of course we also have over bands apart from PAINT THE TOWN RED and PHOENIX RISING (my other band), PROMISES BROKEN, RIDERS ON THE STORM, MA'S STARS, etc. You might not have heard of these bands before since most of them are still very small but who knows what happens in the future.

Marco: I have seen my first HC show 12 years ago at a venue called Kafe Kult, it was Gorilla Biscuits. Munich is a good place to be. The kids who are involved have good hearts and they are dedicated. I also do the booking for a bigger club, called BACKSTAGE and we also do HC shows there. It's a cool club! Bane and us are going to be playing there next month and so will Boy Sets Fire and Death By Stereo.

Is the title of your cd "Last Gang in Town" also connected to Munich in some way?

Chris: Yeah, in some way it is but you cannot really transfer it to our vision of the scene in our hometown. It is more an impression of the feeling of being alienated and pushed aside in a lot of ways. Munich is a very conservative place and as a punk / hardcore band you're everything but fitting in this scheme.

Marco: It's not only connected to Munich as a city, but also to the fact, that there aren't a lot of kids out there, who are pissed and angry anymore, kids who are ready to start the next fight for something they believe in. HC used to be a scene where angry kids came together to get rid of their frustrations and to gain new motivation. These days HC is too often too clean and too mainstream orientated. If I go to shows or if we play shows, I really hate when kids are just standing there, looking at you like you are an alien. I feel really alienated by that. Also if you look at the world today, you have to realize that social differences get bigger and bigger – the gap between rich and poor gets worse, in Munich, in Amsterdam, pretty much everywhere in Europe. Under the banner of »fighting terrorism« war and police state tactics get more and more acceptance. I am convinced that HC kids and kids in general are affected by that status quo, too – kids

who suffer from being jobless or being poor, but instead of taking a stand, kids join the party-nation or turn into wage junkies. So if you don't want to be alone, if you want to raise your fist, you have to get together with other people. Alone you are weak, alone you won't be heard. Get together in a gang, no matter if you call that a political group or a band.

When you, Chris, say the "last gang in town" is about feeling alienated. Maybe you do so in Munich, but you get in contact with people who more or less think the same as you do all over the world. Doesn't that make this feeling disappear... or do you think it only make the gang bigger?

Chris: That is what it is about: Looking to your left and to your right and seeing other kids who feel the same. The idea of the last gang in town is to get organized, to find other kids who are in the same situation and share the same beliefs. Globally you can see the hardcore-scene as some kind of "last gang" but in our opinion even within the hardcore scene there are too many cases in which kids are pushed aside and alienated.

To what extend is what you are doing a reaction to your surroundings? Isn't Bavaria one of the most conservative areas in Germany? Does it differ a lot from other areas such as Berlin or the Ruhr area?

Chris: I think the difference between Munich and Berlin for example is not that big. In every bigger city you have conservative forces who try to keep their old-fashioned, most times unwritten, rules upright and try to kill every attempt of alternative living / thinking. The band is not a direct reaction to this certain circumstance but to the pressure and negative input we get from all our surroundings. There are a lot of things that piss you off every day and with PTTR we found a release for that anger and frustration.

Marco: I am convinced that the things you are taught and that you experienced when you grow up and the things you see in your daily life, are mainly responsible for the way you think and the way you live your life. I grew up in a working class area of Munich, living in a small apartment with my mother, her boyfriend and my 2 brothers. One of my younger brothers is a heavy drug addict. He has been in prison; he used to live on the street, etc. Right now he is on therapy. He has been on drugs for the last 10 years and he is only 26 years old. So PTTR is definitely a reaction to what I experienced in my life. I have also been politically active since I was 15. At the moment I am active in an antifascist and a union Organisation. If all these things wouldn't have happened and in case I would have been raised as an apathetic fuck, I would probably live a »happy« life following the rules of the status quo. It doesn't really matter where you are from – the social and political life is pretty much the same in all of the western worlds "civilized" countries, it doesn't actually matter if it's Munich, Berlin or any other place.

Isn't the way people don't understand the hardcore scene also its force to carry on? If people would understand the way you think and act hardcore would probably have lost its meaning. What makes you go on after six years? Is this "last gang in town" idea maybe the fuel to keep going?

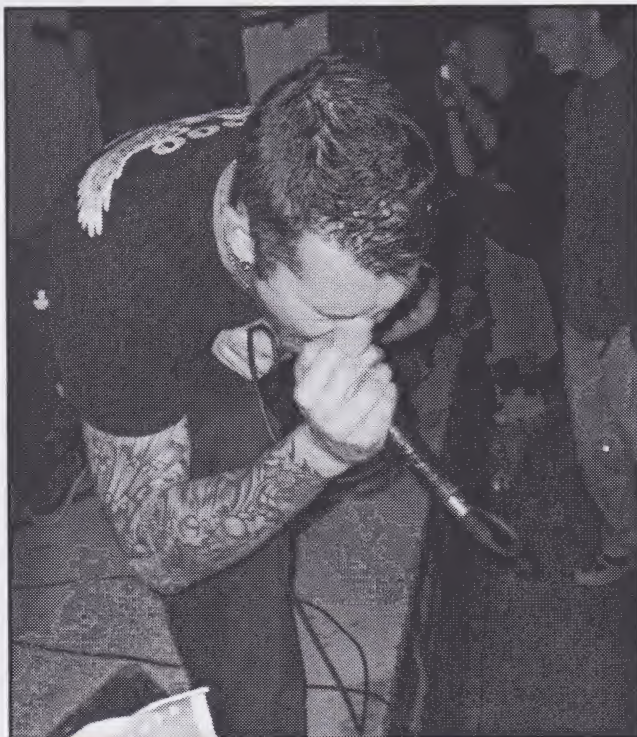
Chris: If you take the collection of all fucked up things that happen to me in my life every day (including the shit that goes on in the so-called hardcore scene) you have the force that keeps me going. It's all about anger, as I already said, and as long as I am angry I will play in bands like PTTR and state my views with the label and the zine. Of course there are also a lot of positive things that keep me going, for example all the amazing kids I got to know over the years. I've been going to hardcore shows since 1994, since then a lot of kids came and went but some faces I still see at shows and that means a lot to me. Just to see that there are other kids who share the same passion, the same anger and still feel well in this place regardless of age, musical taste, fashion and other superficial things that have got nothing to do with hardcore.

When did you think about creating a label? Did you have any idea how it would work and if you could combine it with a band or fanzine?

Chris: The idea of founding LET IT BURN Records first came up in 2001 when the debut MCD by my former band / I / (now PHOENIX RISING) was about to be released. We had certain offers by other labels but none of them was able to release it right away so we decided to do it on our own. We didn't really think about doing that label stuff professional and for other bands but with the time one thing came to the other. KEEP THE FAITH Fanzine had already existed since 1996, and although I knew I would have less time for it now because of the label, it never was a question to continue running it. I also always played in bands since 1996 so that was not a question either. A real combination between band(s), fanzine and label does not exist. Of course I try to support my label with the zine and the other way round.

Marco: We (Ivonne and I) started JTTP in 1996. By that time we had enough money and we had enough contacts. We love working with people and bands we like, that's our main motivation behind JTTP and AVOCADO BOOKING. I am satisfied the way things work

with our label. Since we started about 6 years ago we did 19 releases and they all got great feedback. We are/were working with great bands, like Darkest Hour, Boy Sets Fire, Anthem of the Century, Static 84, My Hero Died Today, Dawncore, Closet Monster, PTTR and there are some really good bands coming up for 2003 like Himsa from Seattle/USA or Nothing Gold Can Stay from Vienna/Austria.



Where do you, Chris, get the time to keep things going with band(s), zine and label? Are you forced to make decisions? If so which of these would have priority?

Chris: Of course I am forced to make decisions, especially under regard of the fact that I also study at the university and have to work to make a living. But among the three things you mentioned the priority list is as following: 1. Band – 2. Label – 3. Zine. Although I must admit that PTTR and LET IT BURN RECORDS are easy to combine since I am flexible with the times I work for the label but the fanzine kind of suffers from a lack of time due to the label and the band(s), which is a real pity. I would love to put out 4 mags a year but that is just impossible for me.

Was it obvious that PTTR would release a cd on Join the Teamplayer? Wouldn't you like to have the band on Let it Burn?

Chris: When we started the band we talked about that Label-situation and decided to put out our debut MCD on Join the Teamplayer since they were one step ahead of Let it Burn Records due to the fact of 3 years longer existence. The best for the band. It never was a question and everybody was happy with the decision.

Marco: One thing I like about Hardcore and Punk is that it gives you control about the things you are doing. Having my band on our label makes things a lot easier for me / us. Also there aren't that many good labels from Europe that I like, so the choice was obvious. Plus we definitely have the big pro of also having a somewhat well known booking Agency (avocado Booking) which offers us options a lot of other bands don't have.

Chris, you said it hasn't been a problem for you having PTTR on Join the Teampayer, but how is the communication with Marco? Did he have a bigger say in what should happen? Did his label paid for and promote the cd? I'm really curious on how this all works with two labels and one band etc.

Chris: No, Marco has no bigger say in any decisions. The Band is a collective and everyone has the same voice in every decision. That was also the case when the question came up which label we were going to release our first release on, although we all agreed on doing it on JOIN THE TEAMPLAYER. Apart from the fact that Marco is both, our singer and our "label-boss" the relation between PTTR and JTTP is just the same as between all other JTTP-Bands and their label. We got the standard deal they offer all their bands and also the same promotion for the CD etc. Of course there are some advantages for PTTR but that is more likely to the fact that we are the only hard-working European band on JTTP right now. Sure, we sometimes have discussions over things but as I already said, Marco's voice is one among 5.

Since Marco also does tour booking etc, it will really help to get the band on the road with bigger names you did a tour with Converge what can you tell about that?

Chris: Of course that is a big advantage for PTTR but that has nothing to do with Marco being our singer but with us being on JOIN THE TEAMPLAYER RECORDS. All other JTTP bands have the same advantages. We are really happy that we got the chance to tour Europe for 3 weeks with CONVERGE. We had a great time and the tour pushed us one step further, as a band, as musicians and as a "team". The tour went through Germany, Belgium, Austria, Hungary, Italy, France, England and Switzerland. CONVERGE are awesome people and an amazing band!

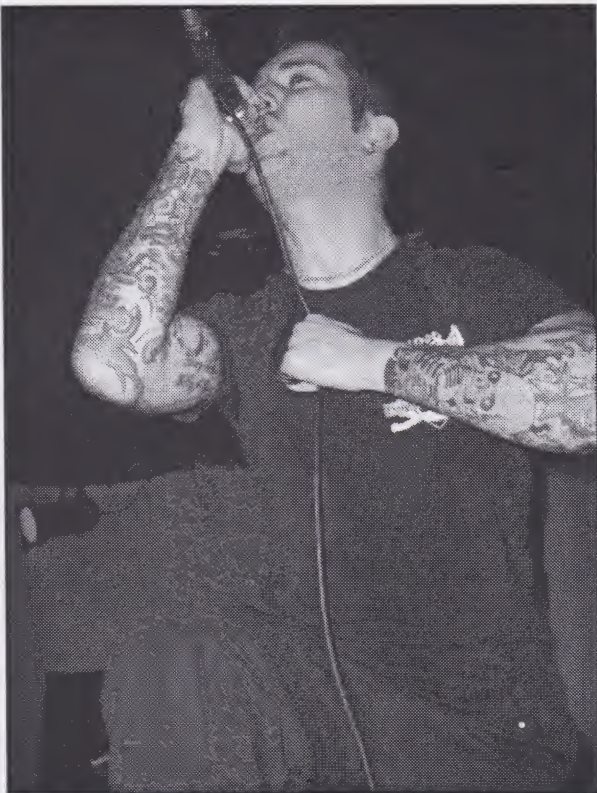
Marco: with your previous band you had a more political approach. For what reason did you change the angle to approach you lyrics? Was it something like all that needed to be said had been said?

Marco: It's weird that you say that My Hero Died Today had a more political approach, because we didn't. MHDT lyrics were more abstract, while PTTR is pretty much a »in your face« band, concerning the message. PTTR is way more angry and pissed. Even as a band we are way more a unit then MHDT ever was.

Most of my lyrics are related to political or social issues – some are written from a very angry and pissed point of view. My lyrics have to be angry and mostly are related to social topics. »Houston we have a problem« is about the death of Carlo Giuliani, who got killed at the Anti-G8 protests in Genoa/ Italy last year. I was also there with some friends and comrades and it was just pure luck that only one person got murdered. »Strike Anthem« is about the shitty situation that the majority of the people have to work under – underpaid, pushed around, alienated – all for the sake of profit. »Breaker Breaker 1.9.« for example is about us kids and people taking a stand, standing up, forming a fist and don't give a fuck.

Chris: what happened to your other band? You played in "i" right?

Chris: /I/ changed their name in PHOENIX RISING. The band still exists although we are taking a brake at the



moment because Daniel and me concentrate on PTTR. We will continue writing songs and playing shows as soon as there's time.

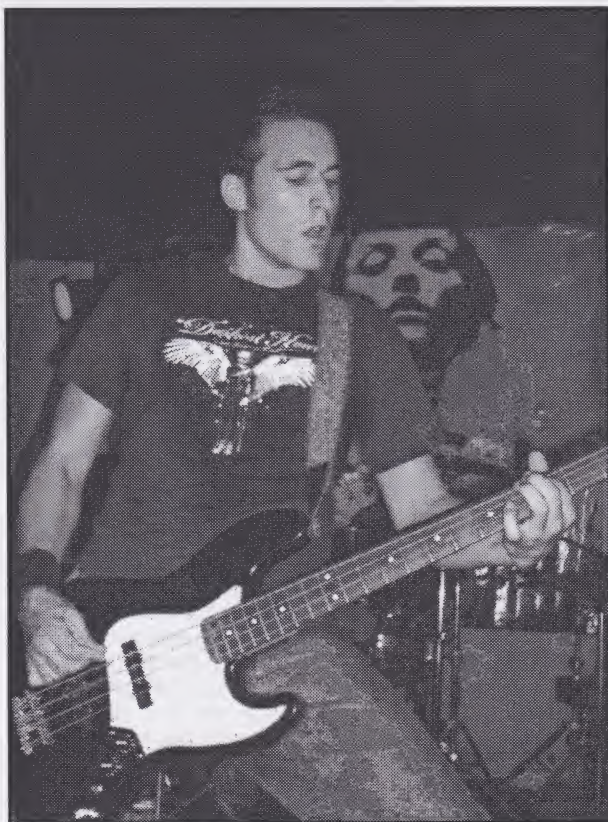
Now that the band, Paint the Town Red, is playing a lot, what will happen to the Keep the Faith fanzine? Can you tell a bit more already about the upcoming 8th issue?

Chris: As I already said, the fanzine is the thing that suffers the most under my lack of time. I already have a couple of interviews made such as ANTI-FLAG, CONVERGE (that is going to be a MONSTER interview!!), SHADOWS FALL, PROPAGHANDI, MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD and there are some more coming up like BANE, HATEBREED and KILLSWITCH ENGAGE. Every free minute I have I try to work on the zine but lately that has not been much. The release is scheduled for January 2003, which is still realistic since I try to finish it during Christmas break. What I would need is more helping hands, maybe even a person who feels responsible for everything, some kind of chief-editor...

What can we expect of Let It burn in the near future? Are you working on a Phoenix Rising record?

Chris: We are about to release the Vinyl Version of FEAR MY THOUGHTS "Vitriol". The CD sells really well but a lot of kids ask for Vinyl, so we decided to release it on LP too. Till the end of the year there's gonna be one more release, the HOLD REGAINED mcd. The mcd will contain their sold out 7inch on Bushido Records + 2 brand new songs. We are not planning to release a PHOENIX RISING record. If that happens it is going to be on BENIHANA RECORDS, the coolest label on this planet!

Interview by Martijn Welzen



Mating rituals of young hardcore kids.

By Prof. M.A.R.T.I.J.N. Welzen

We have found out during extensive research and field work that young hardcore kids might appear similar to other human kids, but they live in their own little niche, or scene as they call it. Within this little scene they display all sorts of social behaviour, which can be best studied during a hardcore show, on which a few preferably American musical groups display a brutal wave of sound, these young kids tend to call music. Other, but less important, environmental rules which have to appear at one of these shows are; dark and damp atmosphere, smoke, the smell of beer and sweat, and some sort of stage on which the band can play their set of songs. The geographical location or setting, is called a club, venue or youth centre, somewhere around the world. There are some slight differences within the scenes of the different countries, most commonly Western Countries, but they need to be neglected to not make the outcome of this survey needlessly incomprehensible.

During a field study in a Belgian town L. we went to observe the young hardcore kids behaviour at a show of the American band C. The rules which need to exist within certain parameters, to have an honest outcome of this study, were almost at an optimum. As an extra there were even so called distro's, which seem to sell the works of art of these musicians at a price considerable less than record shops would do. More experienced hardcore kids know this and save their money for occasions like this. After careful evaluation we can conclude that the male : female ratio at this particular show was about 60 : 40. We have noticed the higher the amount of decibels and the "tougher" the music, the lower the attendance of female hardcore kids will get. Probably the males will go to these "loud" shows to prove their masculinity, but that is still a theory, which outcome has not been verified yet.

The other aspect which is really relevant to the survey has to be the age of the attending hardcore kids. The sooner it is the younger the audience. Older HC kids seem not to be interested in the so called support acts (which are other musical groups to get the crowd going for the main act). Also the typical display of the so called "pit" or "stage diving" can be rarely observed during the set of a support act. The terms "pit" or "stage diving" are technical terms of the scene, but their sole purpose is to pay tribute to the artist playing and the release the energy these adolescents have.

At this particular show we have found two subjects (one male, one female age about 17), who are showing standard courting rituals and rituals that the need to display to fit in with the hardcore scene. Besides the normal human behaviour of two young people in love (that is hugging and kissing), there were strange rituals never seen before. In the next paragraph we will give a short list of these rituals.

1) During the performance of a band, these youngsters scream and point fingers to the band to show they know a certain song. We could not conclude they actually liked the song, or even knew it, but moving along with obscure bands seems to have a positive effect on the other sex.

2) During the faster, more aggressive songs, the male hardcore kid would run forward into the so called pit and show some strange but very violent moves. Probably to impress the girl and to show his courage. Judging by the smile on the face of the young female she seems to like it. We also have noticed girls getting into the pit, but for some reason this does not always have a positive effect on the boy. We could not draw a conclusion on why this is, but we suggest it has to do with the fact, that the boy thinks if a girl can do it, it probably isn't as brave as he thought it to be, thus it would affect his manhood.

3) Apparently the drinks you consume during a show are important. Young kids who drink beer feel the need to display to the people surrounding them what it is they are drinking. They also think getting two beers at the same time would help them to get more attention. Cigarettes seem to have the same effect. We did however notice on one occasion however those young kids having a cross (like an X) on their hands, are openly against the use of alcohol and cigarettes. This contradiction in behaviour has a eerie almost tribal atmosphere about it, and these groups seem to form opposite sites on this. Still; violence, for the purpose of hurting each other is pretty rare at these shows.

4) A difference between mainstream and hardcore musicians has to be the fact people can always talk to hardcore and punk musicians. Sometimes this leads to strange side effects as these young kids almost stick to a band as a mosquito to flypaper. They admire these musicians and want to make the other people believe they know the individual band members.

5) When a show is over you have to prove your loyalty to a band by getting their t shirt or cd at a merchandise stand in the back of the venue. As some sort of trophy you take pride in your purchase and show it to your peers.

We have also noticed other rules to which you have to obey to fit in with the scene such as clothing rules and the way you talk. "Name dropping" seems to improve your status within your group. The obscurer the bands are the more people look up to you. Giving elaborate speeches about the musical quality and lyrics of a specific artist can also give you extra credit. There are even kids that mention the word "scene-points" which means you can put a number on your importance to the hardcore scene. In the end we can draw one overall conclusion which is; that the rules and rituals are so complicated within the hardcore punk scene that no one can ever obey them. This means that in the near future the hardcore scene will despair since it is not a fertile population. Therefore we suggest to all anthropologists throughout the world to observe and study this behaviour and try to preserve it for the future. Much more study is needed to fill in voids left in this first survey. We will ask the local government to support the continuation of this study.



With the release of Hatebreed's first album in 1997 on Victory , called "Satisfaction is the Death of Desire", the band made a statement. They were not out to set the world on fire with musical renewal, but the power of their metallic hardcore caught everybodies attention within the hardcore scene. The album grew out to become the one of the best known hardcore records ever. Expectations were high, and it took the band till 2001 to come over to Europe for the first time, but a new record was yet to be written. Major label Universal got interested in the band, and offered them to release the second album "Perseverance" through them. Is that a good deal; going from from an indi label to a major being a hardcore band? Jamey Jasta, singer of the band is totally dedicated to the band, and loyal to the hardcore scene in general. He knows how to find a way for Hatebreed in the musicbusiness without compromising. Just let Jamey do the talking and explain what's going on.

First off a more technical question. Have you released "Perseverance" on Stillborn and then licensed it to Universal?

They have bought out the rights to our contract. And by doing that we were able to put the record out on Stillborn through Universal. By doing that we can use all necessities that we need as far as distribution is concerned, marketing, money and all that, but what we also have is the ability to put out our own ad's, do on line advertising and contact college radio's. Everything that I have done in the past with my label too, but now I have the funding for that so I don't go broke, and still have records in every store. With Victory some stores have the record and others don't, or they're out. Now they have the cd everywhere.

And how did the label react to that? The way you work, with a DIY approach is totally different than the way the other acts on the label work.

It was hard at first, and it is still hard out here. I was actually surprised they came out to contact us.

Hasn't that also to do with the fact Universal actually has different companies in different countries and that there is only one Victory?

Here we got a lot of work to do, but that's the way we always did things. We want to be hands on, and we don't want to portray us like being something that we are not. That's the reason the record sounds the way it is. It is not like we have changed all of a sudden just to sell more records.

What can you tell about the progression of the label coming from Smorgasbord and through Victory getting to Universal? How has that also changed your view on the music biz and maybe the hardcore scene?

Musically it is just a natural progression in time. Time made us better musicians. As far as I'm concerned I'm a better writer than I was before. And as far as the lyrics are concerned I had the idea I could be even more honest than before. I had nothing to prove, and I didn't feel like a kid going out there with something to prove anymore. I just wanted to make an honest record. I have been through enough stuff in my life and I wanted to put that on the record. I felt good, and that's just how it went. When you're younger you just want to make a demo and have fun, the same with making our first album. Now I wanted to submerge myself in that process, and now I'm also being paid for it, instead of paying for it myself, which gives you a lot of freedom. It gave us time to make it the way it is.

And when you compare the new album to "Satisfaction", do you have to idea that album could have been a lot better when you would have had the time and resources?

Yes, definitely. When listening back to it, I'm still surprised it got as big as it did. You it was like a clusterfuck. We were like tearing our hair out. We had no money, not time, my vocal chords were shot. It wasn't a fun experience,

But still it had to be done....

Yeah it just had to be done. It was like work, or school or anything. With this record I felt that we were more song oriented. We had a bunch of choruses; I felt that the sing-a-longs were there. In the end we it was all more thought out I guess.

And the album is called "Perseverance" it is also about you, or the band keeping things together and working on the goals you have set?

Oh yeah, I wanted to give up! Then I felt like, wpw there are all these kids that, want to hear our new record. There are people out there that rely on us putting out new records. I would never want to have anybody else, be it school, work musical career or whatever to give up. So I thought this might be the inspiration we needed for the record. Going through all this stuff, rising out of it, and pouring it all into the music. At that point it all felt right. I remember, after the record was finished, reading some criticism. This was before anybody even heard the new songs! But they were talking about how it would sound like and how we would have changed, because we now we're with Universal. I only thought "Wow, as soon as people gonna hear this record. They're gonna eat their words sure enough. The new record has become as popular in just a tenth of the time as the last record.

Maybe things also had to do with Victory being a hardcore label and Universal is not, people don't know what to expect then. The label maybe also puts a musical tag on a band.

That's the thing. With Victory, when I used to do press people were always asking; "are you a straight edge band?" People always seem to have this preconceived notion of what we are about. We always tried to get away from that. Sure we played with hardcore bands, but we also started playing with bands like Machine Head, Six Feet Under, and Type O Negative and like today with Biohazard. We always wanted to play for the scenes that we embrace. Now with Universal it is like that. No one is looking to hear one specific thing. We add all of these different styles into it. We are not doing anything new... it is not brain surgery; we are just playing what we love. It's not like we would ever become like Dream Theatre, and go out to challenge ourselves as musicians. We play catchy stuff, we want to play things that people will dance to, and sing a long to. Just like the bands that we like.

For that reason it is easier being on a label that is not a known hardcore label... They have the power to get it out to so many people, which Victory never could.

But you also know how this hardcore thing works and some people will say with Hatebreed being on a major it is not a hardcore band anymore.

People who thought that have got to be a vocal minority. I'll give you an example about the States where Sick of it all... a great band has the perfect career a hardcore band could have, but there are places that they just don't go. They're not gonna play there since there is no hardcore scene. We never had that mentality, we always played everywhere. We thought; "let's make a hardcore scene there". In Connecticut we have a scene that was made over the years, we had bands playing there since there was nowhere else to play. And the kids appreciated it. Connecticut was the place where all these bands could go and it was so huge. With other places things never where this big. I remember going to Into Another in Pennsylvania, and I think there were maybe 40 people. With the Revelation and early Victory bands the same thing... they were huge in Connecticut. And that just proves to me, that when I go to Memphis, Tennessee where there is no hardcore scene we would play for twenty people... next time forty people, and by the third or fourth time it is maybe sold out. It was hard you know, and when the kids like the show, they bought the cd at a distro, or went to a local shop trying to get it. You don't have that with Universal. You can throw a fucking dime without hitting a cd, you know what I mean?

That's a strange story since it is quite obvious a band can create a scene, just like Morning Again and Culture have had a huge impact on the Florida scene.

The thing is I use Sick of it All as an example a lot, since what they have... this consistency, not backing down, and being on a major label. That's why I use their name, I have nothing but respect for that band, but when it comes to the way they tour, I want to tour differently. We go to every little city that there is, to places where there has never been a hardcore scene. And I would bring my cd's, and trade it for other labels stuff, just to get the bands out there, and hopefully it will all turn into something. Which it has... already I'm seeing the fruits of the labour. To me it shows I'm on the right path, and no one is going to change that. People will say we have changed now that we are on a major label, but.... Hello they are fucking ignorant. What has changed? On the Ozz fest a kid came up to me telling he bought the Converge album, because I was wearing a shirt. And he loved it.... You know these are the kids that used to wear Weezer and Linkin' Park shirt so there's a progression.

Hatebreed

That's a natural thing; you grow into a certain type of music.

Yeah, kids love to think and act like they were born into hardcore. Not everybody is, you stumble upon it through other forms of music. Most of the times kids just want to keep the music for themselves. I was guilty of it too... I loved Nirvana's "Bleach" album. I never thought they were going to be the next big thing. It really bummed me out when I saw like jocks moshing to a Nirvana song and all that. That's not gonna happen with Hatebreed, we are not on the radio and we are not on television. Why? 'cause we didn't change our style to become more accessible. All we did and hoped for was being who we were made us more accessible and the records are out there in the stores.

So maybe it is not like you wanted to become mainstream all of a sudden, but the mainstream might have a chance to cross your path.

Right, it is just like Korn there's something the kids like about them... the groove the heaviness, whatever. We offer that same type of aspects and now they are able to hear it. Why the hell not is my opinion. There's always gonna be critics, there's nothing we can do but continue doing what we want to.

Okay, to the album, when I read the lyrics I always get the impression you are fighting against somebody, or something... a person or just an idea. Is that what Hatebreed is about? The frustration and the energy?

It is everything... I think that justice is in the eye of the beholder.... Just like beauty. Everybody thinks they are entitled to some justice, but life is not fair no one is promised anything. And as long as people don't start realising this, there's always going to be this misinterpret view about what is fair and what is justified. You have to aim your negativity and make something out of what you can do. And that's it. You can't keep one complaining about it, you're already on your way to the next bad situation. I have been living my life like that for over a decade, but I'm through with that... I'm trying to look on the bright side of things, trying to be an optimist. I have a kid and things are different now.

Up until my kid was born, I have been thinking; "Why do you want to bring a child in this world? What is wrong with me? How am I gonna be a dad, how am I gonna support a kid." It felt like everything was negative. I turned it around, and said this is going to be great, this is going to be fabulous. Sure, there are going to be bad times, and there is going to be trouble. But what are you going to do? Just live hating everything? And to get back to the band... I have all these records that are about aimless negativity... and I love those records, but I want

to make a record where I can aim that negativity and at the end of the day I am cleansed, where I have solved a little bit of the problems. And maybe someone at the show has too, maybe when they take a look

in to the cd they can have a little bit of cleansing too. If you're only able to step away from that problem for just one minute. To me that's worth more than going out hating and complaining like everybody else does. Of course my release is doing it over a show or a song, but there are lots of ways.

And what's with this justice thing we have been talking about? When I read the lyrics to a track like "Judgement Strikes" I get the idea you want to take justice in your own hands... that can't be good...


That's the thing, take our band... some people would think by us being a successful band that would be injustice. "Why are they successful?" But that's how this world works. We don't think we did all this hard work, we slept on the floor, spend days in a



new Hatebreed-



Hatebreed



fucking van, that we are entitle to this. We are not entitled to this. We are not entitled to selling 200.000 records.

But you often hear this phrase "you have to pay your dues"... that's doesn't apply to Hatebreed?

Everybody says; you paid your dues, that's why this is happening. They could be right, but what I am saying is that there is no guarantee at that. People will say someone like Christina Aguilera is big because it is pop. Who am I to say she didn't pay her dues, just because I don't like here music. It can all go either way. I'm tired of that mentality. I think this is a good representation of where we are to day. And a song like "Judgement Strikes" is about someone who just been dealt the injustice... but I am the one who's saying it about myself. One of the lyrics is "Jealousy seethes through your callous words". That's what we see every day. Kids that hate other bands, bands that hate other bands. And really what is all comes down to is jealousy and envy, and wanting something you can't have. I'm tired of that. I don't want to think about stuff that I can't have. I'm gonna work as hard as I can to get what I

want, but I'm not gonna fuck someone over to achieve a certain goal, and I'm not going to expect it or say that I am entitled to it. You have got to let these things get in. I'm reading a book right now about getting smarter and getting things done in less time. And a lot of things I have read came out to be true; we spend so much time worrying, complaining etc. And if you would really focus on the things that you have to do you would be a step further, and that is going to inspire our next record.


Is it also because you now work hard with your band and your label and that you have signed with a major label, and that might also be something other bands would want to achieve? And then the jealousy thing kicks in again, but mostly has to do with the fact they don't want to sacrifice everything to get this far.

I think we had nothing but support of the other bands. I think that 99% of these bands supported us, and back what we do. The bands that don't want to do it like this... I don't mind do your own thing. I really respect bands like Fugazi that have enough mind power to have enough drive to put out their own records. I would love to do that too, but that doesn't exist on this scale. I sometimes spread myself too thin... right now I could be on the Internet and sending emails to help my friends out and supporting other bands. That's time that I don't have. I do what I can, and I encourage people to do the same. I think that gives you one step ahead to the

next guy. If you do the work while the others are sleeping you will get there. The early bird gets the worm. I really do think that. With work you see results, but there are a lot of times this won't happen. And that also what I said about injustice. People break their back for 40 years and then retire, get struck by lightning and fucking die. There is this guy I knew who had a heart attack two weeks after he retired. That's also inspiration for the songs on the record. Did he deserve that? Who are we to say?

You also once said about "Perseverance" that it is the record the modern society needs. Is that about the aggression of modern society or maybe more specific the US society?

It's this complacency people have. When they are stuck they don't change. When you live in a ghetto, it doesn't mean your kids have to stay in the ghetto too, and when we release and album on Victory is doesn't mean we have to stick to the label for the rest of our career. It is all about not accepting our limitations. That's maybe also the reason I got into hardcore... I didn't want to go to school like anybody else, I didn't want to work like anybody else; I don't want to stay at home and do what everyone else did. I wanted to play music, wanted to travel and meet other people. I can only do the best I can, and as long as I'm challenging myself everyday, and maybe even help people even in the smallest possible way it is also helping myself.



"When extreme times call for extreme music, extreme music calls for Hatebreed"

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album "Perseverance" out now on Universal

Do you also have the idea more people are picking up this underground of positivism, which your songs seem to have?

They do! And I talk to a lot of people,

I have turned more

people to hardcore

and punk or

extreme metal this

year than I have

ever done

before. It is

much easier to

reach out now

that being on a

small indi label.

What really puzzles me is that the story you tell about Hatebreed and your music is really positive. The lyrics and music on the record itself comes across quite negative. How does that work?

You see, we need that. It is what is it, and there are always two sides to every coin, but if you would dig just a bit deeper into the record and you hear songs like "You're Never Alone" or even a song like "A Call For Blood". Even with that particular song, which people think is our most negative song ever, it is about how you view justice. Is someone is raped all their lives or molested; the positive outcome would be to get vengeance. It goes back to the saying; the negativity and the injustice are just how you look at it.

Do you really believe in "Eye for an Eye"? To a certain extend, yes I do.

On the previous album you also use the phrase "I won't turn the other cheek".

Right, you have got to stand up for yourself. I have a three-and-a-half-year old at home who said to me; "Daddy, a girl pushed me and I didn't like it." I told her; "tell her you don't like it and if she does it again, push her back." Do I want to tell the people in the audience the same things I tell my family or my daughter? Sure, why not.

Is that also inherent to modern society? Or is it the same as ten years ago?

No, I don't think so. To me personally a lot of who I got formed by music. There are and were records that helped me to stand up for myself, or to make my own decisions. People might say it is crazy, but if you look at the way society works, or how politics works is really logical. Who gets the most results? Look at U2... they raised more awareness and money for poverty than any politician ever did. You have put some of this stuff in to accountability, and even if it is entertainment, I would like it to be a little bit more, if it could be. I'm not saying I am that person... if I am or if I could be that's great. Right now I trying to get through my own problems and express them through music and hopefully one person or more people will relate to it and get something out of it.

Now that you are on a new label, and you play with hardcore as well as metal bands. How do you see this progress

Hatebreed

now? Is hardcore and metal getting closer together? Do the metal kids accept your band?

Yeah, we have recently done a tour with Slayer and we were accepted. A Slayer audience is a tough crowd and they told us we were one of the only bands that had ever happened to. And we played with Down, and since Phil of Pantera is in that band we have every Pantera fan, and their mother showing up. So that also ended up being really cool.

Like Jimmy of Murhpy's Law once said "in the end it is all rock n roll".

I agree to that to a certain extend. You know when I get to know a band through a major release, I always go out to get their early stuff. Most of the times I don't like their older releases. It doesn't sound as good. The same with Bad Brains, when I bought their "Quickness" people told me they sold out and became metal. But I liked that cd just as much as the other stuff. That's what I call progression... I like the band. I guess it is all rock n roll when you think about it, but everybody has got to have their own label, or to have their own different faction within the

scene. So it is always going to be like that, so there is no use to talk too much about it.

All right just one final question. How was it to have Kerry King of Slayer walking in the studio one day asking if he could record a track with you?

(Laughter). Well, it didn't exactly go like that, but it was definitely an honour to have him on our record. We never had a solo, so for us it was like doing something new. I have been thinking about it and often thought... "Oh wow, is this really happening to me?"

But you probably grew up on Slayer's music... I'm not sure how old you are
I'm 25!

So there you go...

I have had Slayer posters on my wall, from every magazine I could lay my hands on. I had pictures ripped out of magazines too.

So it was having one of your heroes walking in one day...

Really, when we toured with Slayer there where a couple of nights I thought; "I don't know what I did to deserve it." I have tried to tell those guys too. And when I think back, I'm still grateful. And now I have one of them on my record.

You know there are kids buying the record just because Kerry King in on it? We didn't put anything cheesy on the cover like "Featuring Kerry King".

Interview by Martijn Welzen
Livepics from: <http://www.hatebreedweb.pt.vu>





In the mid 90's Black Train Jack made quite an impact in the melodic hardcore scene. With two great albums "You're Not Alone" (1994) and "No Reward" (1993) they also drew me into their camp of a lighter view on the hardcore scene. The year of 1995 came and the band broke up, but rumors kept on flooding the scene, and no one knew what happened. But when the first Grey Area cd with BTJ guitarist Ernie on vocals came out on Victory records, it ended all dreams of a new Euro tour for Black Train Jack. Especially Rob Vitale's vocals made the band to what they once were. What we in Europe didn't really know is that Rob and his former BTJ colleague Brain Goldstein (bass) had the idea of forming a new band, under the name Nine Lives. Words were followed by deeds, and with Rich Ramirez (drums) and Dan Cav (guitar) they started writing songs and playing live across their home state. Too Damn Hype showed interest in the band and in 2001 the band could release its debut album "The Fugitive". Still a really obscure band around here, but the cd rocks, and Rob's vocals are as good as they have ever been, and Brian is dying to get over to Europe once again with his new band, and is eager to spread the word of Nine Lives through this interview already.

We all know Black Train Jack broke up around 95, I had no idea you already started a new band that quick already. Can you give a short story on how Black Train Jack came to an end and Nine Lives came into its existence.

BTJ ended for a number of reasons. There were some unhealthy tensions in the band that were hard to deal with, but in addition to that a few members really didn't want to keep touring. At the point the band was at, some of us had given up a lot to be able to stay on tour. Some gave up school, some gave up careers, so that BTJ could tour full time. When some of the members no longer wanted to tour, it was like having the rug pulled out from under you. It really sucked. Personally, I

was getting so fed up with attitudes and tensions that I was ready to call it quits myself. Anyway, some of us wanted to keep touring, so we started Nine Lives. It was initially Rob's idea. He wanted to keep going as soon as BTJ officially ended. I didn't think I'd want to do another band, but after about 6 months, I wanted to get back on the road again and make music. I want to apologize to any BTJ fans that might read this because that band should not have ended. We were really making a lot of progress and could have done a lot more, and we owe it to the people that supported the band. We had a great following in Europe. I hope everyone will support this band the way they did BTJ. Europe was the greatest place for us when we were on tour.

What's up with the name Nine Lives? Are you maybe a "cat person" :)?

Rob came up with the name, and he is definitely not a cat person. He saw it more as a metaphor for starting over again. It comes from the saying that cats have nine lives but it's related more to someone never quitting. You know, BTJ ended and we started right back up. It's also what we are about, and I'll talk about it in the next question more. When someone is dedicated, positive, and believes in something with all their heart, nothing can stop them. They may falter, but they will always stay true to what they believe in. By the way I happen to like cats a lot, but that has nothing to do with it!

In what sense did you want Nine Lives to be different from BTJ? In one of your answers you regret that your previous band broke up. Is Nine Lives a continuation of what you did before?

I want it to be different in that we're able to tour more! BTJ was great, but there was so much tension in the band at the end, and I never want that again. Nine Lives is different in that we all have the same goals. We want to tour as much as we can and play music for people. We hope that people will get something positive from us and that we'll get something positive from them. That's the best thing about touring is meeting all the great people all over the world that come out to shows. Nine Lives is definitely a continuation of BTJ, but there are some different people and we have been exposed to different influences since then, and some things will naturally change.

Within the hardcore scene bands often deal with the serious issues in this world (politics, human rights, animal rights etc). Your music seems to be "lighter", is that on purpose?

While BTJ had a "straight edge" song, we weren't about preaching back then and we are not now either. Our music has always been about regular stuff and feelings that everyone has. We are all still true to what we always believed in. Music is a way for people to release their feelings and emotions in a positive way. We deal with a lot of heavy stuff all the time, and for us playing in Nine Lives is a way to express how we feel about things and a release for us. We hope that people will relate to what we are saying and be able to get something positive from us.



How important is it to try and bring a smile to people's faces, with a song like "Paperboy"? Do you think the hardcore and punk scene often takes itself too seriously?

I think that's the most important thing. It's great to make people think and learn and stuff, but that's not what we are really about. I love playing in Nine Lives because it's incredibly fun. I have the best time of my life on stage and at shows. I want people at our shows to walk away feeling as good as I do. There's enough trouble in everyone's lives nowadays. I want our music to be a way to escape that and to really have fun. That's what we're about. I think there's a place for bands that address serious issues, and I appreciate what they do and that they are able to address social issues through music. It's a great way to get a message across in a positive way. That's an important part of the scene for sure. If I hadn't listened to bands like Bad Religion, 7Seconds, and Minor Threat when I was younger I wouldn't be the same person that I am today. The only thing that bothers me is the entire tough guy shit and the violence. I don't think there's any place for that.

Can you give a general idea on how Nine Lives writes songs? In the booklet is stated "Welcome to our lives" are the songs dealing about the four guys that make up the band?

We all do it together. Usually one of us will come up with a basic idea, but the songs are truly the product of all of us working together. We all

contribute to the music and usually to the words as well, although we like when Rob writes the lyrics himself, because I think if you are singing words that come from your own heart they will come across better. The songs are about things that we all feel or have had to deal with or live through. We write about real things, things that people experience no matter what country you live in, no matter how young or old you are or what you do for a living.

And also with addressing AND things to laugh about AND things to think about, you touch many more sides of someone's character. How important is it for you to be honest in your music (expressing when feelings are either good or bad) and not just sing and write about one particular side of who you are?

It's very important. There should always be a part of yourself that no one knows about, but I think it's important to get everything out in the music. Honesty is critical. Like how can anyone write about "the ghetto" and stuff like being in jail if they never have been there?!? Some people have been and express their feelings about it very well and I respect that. Honesty = Respect in my book. Some of our songs are happy, some aren't. We definitely have some bitter stuff in there because that's part of our lives.

Are there also things you can't or wouldn't write about since they might be too personal? When you say "Welcome to our Lives", does it mean we can get to know you through and through?

Yeah I think that's what it means. Nothings too personal. When we're on stage giving it everything we have that's who we are. We're very honest in our music and at our shows. We really like talking to people and hanging out with them and getting to know them. We're always really open to meeting fans and staying in touch. You can always learn something from everyone that you meet. You might not know it when you meet them but it's there.

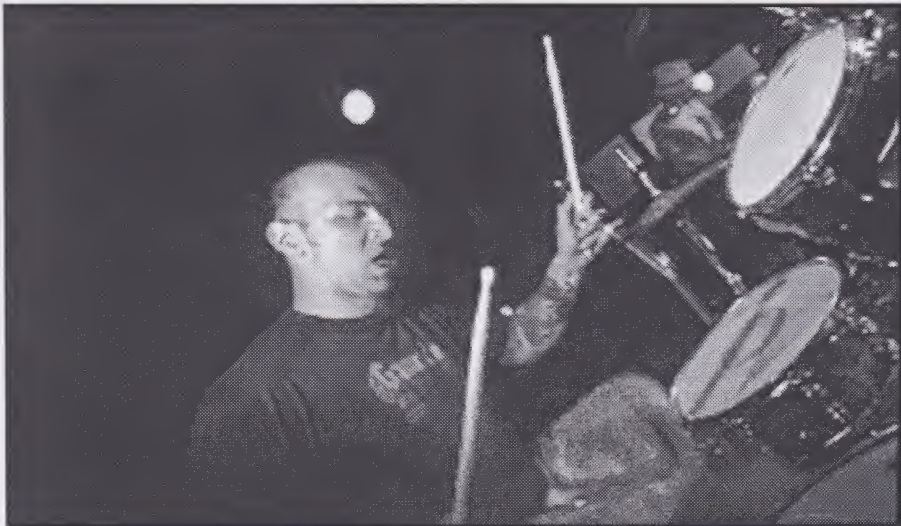
The album is called "the Fugitive". When I read the lyrics (not only to that particular song) I get the idea you (as a band) or maybe Rob is the fugitive, running from people who are trying to force you to live in a certain way. Is that true? What can you tell about the "people" that are chasing you?

You hit the nail on the head! You're exactly right about the song. It's not really about any people in particular that are "chasing" us, but about the way that society tries to guide you into accepting their mores. They try to get you a thousand times every day. It's in what you read, what you see, stores you go to, etc. You are taught throughout life to conform and to fit in, and that is always reinforced. The Fugitive is about turning away from that and being what you are and sticking to what you believe in at the cost of alienating yourself from society. I could give you a million examples of the "people" out there that are chasing us, so to speak.

In your answer about the issues which you address in your lyrics; you talk about the regular things that people go through in live. I have heard it more often than when people get older they tend to talk (or sing), more about personal things, and keep it all closer to their own lives. Does that sound familiar to you (and the band)? Do you see it as a part of getting older? Do the lyrics differ a lot from when you were in BTJ (and a few years younger)?

Maybe it has something to do with getting older, but I think we did the same thing with BTJ. Maybe it's got something to do with actually experiencing more stuff and going through more things personally, instead of wondering what things will be like in the future. I don't think the lyrical content is that different from BTJ? We're still writing about things that we experience and live through or hope for. Things that are important to everyone.





How do you see the scene surrounding you where in which people tend to complain a lot? (At least that's the case in Europe...) Does this also have an influence on you trying to bring a more positive view on things?

Yeah it does. I just remember how much fun I had at shows in the late 80's and early 90's, like Gorilla Biscuits, Murphy's Law, 7Seconds, Descendents and ALL, In Your face, etc. It was my release from the drudgery of school and work, and everyone was

accepted. Now everyone wants to be more "cool" than the next guy or more of a tough guy. It's become a huge fashion show. Like a contest of who can be more emo or punk. It's ridiculous. People should relax and just be what they are and have fun.

You have mentioned BTJ had a huge following in Europe, and you hope they will support Nine Lives too overhere. What was the reason for releasing the album through Too Damn Hype, which mainly

focuses on the US? Their stuff is pretty hard to get overhere... Have you had also offers of from other labels?

We went with Too Damn Hype because we really wanted to get a CD out fast and no one else was interested. We have had the worst luck with labels over here. It was not a good idea. It's next to impossible to find the CD here too, and many people think we broke up two years ago! When people hear about us they're usually surprised that we're still around. It sucks. We really need to find a label that believes in us. Most labels seem to be looking for whatever is trendy and not good music. We'll just keep working at it and hope that someone will give us a chance to do what we do.

What can we expect for the near future of the band? Has there also been an interest from Europe in having the band over for a tour?

We've spoken to a few people about touring but we really need a more widespread release over there. If anyone reading this wants to bring us over, let me know!!!! We are dying to come back to Europe!! The key thing will be finding a decent label. Right now we have enough new material for a new album. We just need someone to get behind us and release it.

Interview by Martijn Welzen



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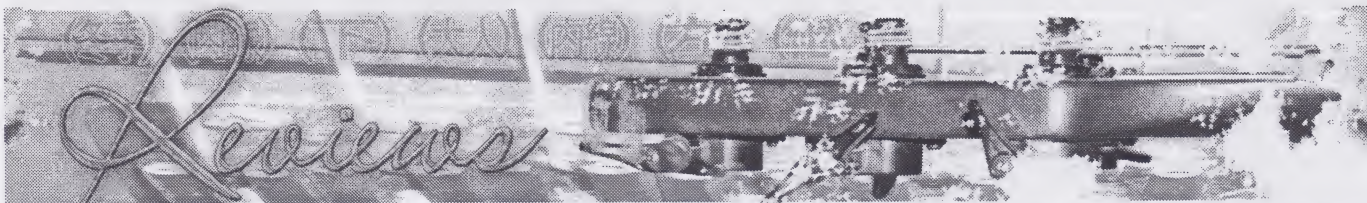
Reprisal lp/cd



Lastyear cd



Sentence cd



4FT Fingers - From hero to zero CD
(Gold Records)

Why is it that some punk bands dare to release their work with such an ugly (and I'm being nice here) lay-out. Jesus, I've never seen such a terrible drawing in my life!! Get someone to do a good promotion for your band, this way you'll never sell your record. And I really should ask everyone NOT to buy this record because of this cover drawing. (and the music isn't so bad actually, but now it's to late and you'll stay sad for the rest of your life...) -big middle finger. Ha.
Bart

Abdullah - Graveyard Poetry CD
(People Like You Records)

This has to be the missing link in between the modern stoner rock and the old fashioned new wave of British heavy metal, which roamed the scene during 1979 and 1982. Abdullah has the key to a perfect mix of sluggish killer riffs that come from Black Sabbath and bands like Monster Magnet or even Life of Agony, and the powerful melodic groove that came with old school metal bands like Holocaust and Diamond Head. Especially the last band must have had a major influence on the song structure. You know this mix of Black Sabbath and Diamond Head has already been tried by some obscure band named Metallica on their "black album", but screw that! Singer Jeff Shirilla can do it way better. Ozzy would be proud of him. And hey, it is just I or has the entire track "Strange Benedictions" been constructed by bits of Diamond Head tracks "It's Electric", "Helpless" and "Am I Evil"?
Martijn Welzen

Above The Struggle - Unleash The Fury MCD
(D.I.Y.)

Wow!! The booklet and the layout look very promising for a D.I.Y. product. And even the production from this Old school hardcore songs with different influences such as punk and Oi! sounds great. So there is no way back for these guys from Roermond (NL) this is great promotion for the band and I guess it won't take long for these guys to find a suitable record label. Even the website on <http://www.abovethestruggle.com> looks great.

Carel Groenen

Adam West - Ready Steady Adam West CD
(People Like You Records)

After the last release "Right On" from these guys I wasn't waiting for another release. Because I didn't liked it very much. So with some doubt I putted this album in my player. Adam West a collection of rare tracks from 1993 to 1999. And this CD surprised me. On this one are some old songs, b-sides and rarities and these songs sound very good. Ok I don't like everything but Adam West rocks without a doubt. And this album is a great opportunity to get them to know better.

Carel Groenen

Affront - You'd Make a Good-looking Corpse CD
(Commode Records)

This totally reminds me of Battery. A rawer Battery with some "early eighties" influences, but still a very cool mix of old school hardcore and pure punk. A bit annoying are the Pennywise choruses, which totally take the venom out of these hardcore fangs. Guys; please don't do that! They will cripple you. Affront, from DC, have already been putting out stuff for some years now, but are still unknown in Europe. About time that changed. These tracks got recorded by Issa Diao and include a Bad Brains cover (Pay to Cum), have a Pushead like cover and are trying to get a price for best song title ("I'd Like to Say Fuck You, But I Can Never Find The Words").

Martijn Welzen

All Boro Kings - Just for the Fun of it CD
(Century Media Records)

I like my hardcore to have a message! Either personal or political doesn't really matter, as long as I can get something out of it. Doesn't mean I don't like to party once in a while, and that is when in the past bands like Dog Eat Dog and Mucky Pup came along. Great, and usually funny songs and superb live shows. Both bands unfortunately developed in a direction I couldn't comprehend, and it made me long back to the day when Dog Eat Dog's album "All Boro Kings" just came out. I think some of the band members must have thought the same... They (that is Dan Nastasi, Dave Neabore, Sean Kilkenny and John Milnes) came together and formed All Boro Kings. "Just for the fun of it", which is also a link to DED first full length, totally hooks in with the sound of 1994. Funk, hip-hop, rock and hardcore are blended again the old fashioned style. Don't take it all too serious, there's always time to party.
Martijn Welzen

All Systems Go - Mon Chi Chi CD
(Bad Taste Records)

Well they've been gone for quite a long time, since their last debut more than 3 years ago, they've been silent. Now they finally have their band together again (with a new bass player) and they've made a new album. Which is pretty nice, with harmonious vocals and good positive energized riffs this CD will keep your head light on the dark winter nights. There are also a few guest appearances like Leonard Phillips (the Dickies), Melissa Auf De Mar (Hole/Smashing Pumpkins) and more. A couple of nice songs which are worth a try are Tell Vicky and Motorbikes.
Bart

Among the Living - demo CASSETTE
(Discontent Records)

Yeah baby, this is a very nice surprise. This is how a demo should be. Three hard powerful songs with a rough production on a cassette. Among the Living has the same sound as some bands from a few years ago. I hear some old new-school influences but then with more beatdown parts. This stuff is very good and these guys have a lot of potential, that's for sure. This just kick ass! Support these guys and order a demo because they are worth it.
Paco

Angelic Upstarts - Sons of Spartacus CD
(Knock Out Records)

The Angelic Upstarts formed in South Shields, North-East England 1977. Wow! The guys from Angelic Upstarts are certainly no quitters, one of the oldest Oi! bands on this planet and again a great new album. After more then 25 years this band is still kicking against society and against the right wing politic. Influenced by bands such as The Clash and The Sex Pistols and nowadays they are the inspiration for many new bands in the punk/oi! scene. With this album, they show that they are not old and boring, but ready for the next decennium. For news, photo's and merch check out <http://www.angelicupstarts.co.uk>
Carel Groenen

Anti Maniax - As long as people don't think CD
(Household Records)

From Graz, Austria there is a punk explosion coming that you mustn't miss!! A mix of ska, hardcore and punk which is comparable with Chokin'Victim and Leftover Crack. A debut album filled with songs about animal rights, anti-capitalism and more. It's amazing how even the out of key guitar parts make it all fall perfectly together. Great songs are 'Suit, tie, ca\$h!', 'We raise ya', 'Operation Anthill', 'Entertainment Industries'. Really, keep these guys in mind, check them out!
Bart

A Traitor Like Judas - Poems for a dead man MCD
(Erdkamp Records)

It seems like Germany keeps going on delivering fine metal orientated hxc bands. ATLJ reminds me a lot of Jane but somehow it took me a while to get used to this record. The sad thing is that I don't really know why, but the more I listen to it, the more I like it. Expect many metallic riffs and breakdowns. These guys know how to make diverse songs, which will blast your head off. I wonder how they will be live, but I assume that they will have a better performance than Jane. To me this is the perfect band to fill the gap that Jane left behind. Again a new metallic hxc band from Germany with a lot of potential!
Paco

Authority Zero - A Passage in Time CD
(Lava Records)

A punk band that plays rock n roll. Authority Zero is taking their music back to where all these modern style came from rock n roll, mixing it with Green Day like punkrock (especially the vocal part), and reggae makes it a nice cd to dance to. A bit too slick for my taste and all could use a firm streetpunk kick in the behind, giving it a Dropkick Murphy's edge, one the 12 songs ("Papa" is an intro and not really a song if you ask me). On the other hand title track "Passage in Time" just has this awesome Dead 50's face and that would really look cool with the other tracks to. The same goes for a song "Sky's the Limit", but there are a few tracks that sound as if they were written to fill up the album to a decent length. Party people who like to visit punk show couldn't care less, so I guess this one's for them.
Martijn Welzen

Awkward Thought - Ruin a Good Time CD
(I Scream Records)

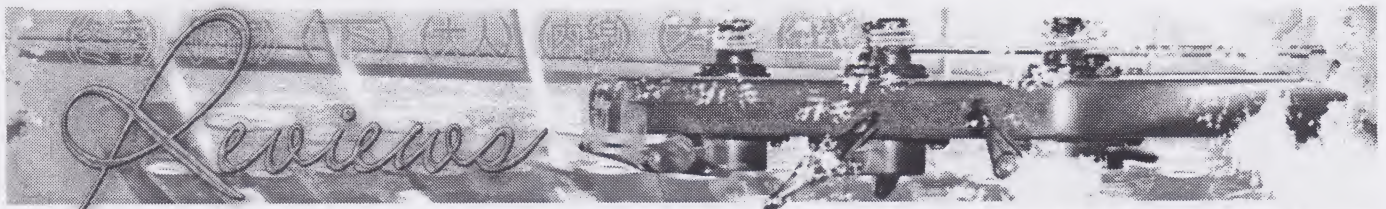
Ah see; so it is possible to give John Franko's voice the right sound and power on an Awkward Thought record. His vocal capacities are limited, but he can display real brutality if needed. It's just a step around the corner from Dave Reumers growls on the average Right Direction record, and a lot more powerful and NY oriented, when compared to Right Directions' recent albums Awkward Thought mixes Madball and old Agnostic Front influences with (street)punk and a bit of Sheer Terror. A foundation for this sound has been laid with previous records "Mayday" and "Fear Not". One of the last band to give aggressive NYHC, and we should cherish it, with the exception of the ugly cover.
Martijn Welzen

Bad Astronaut - Houston we have a drinking problem CD

(Honest Don's Records)
Brilliant. That would be the one word to describe this first full-length album of Bad Astronaut. This CD really has everything. The music, the lay-out, the front illustration, it's all seriously fantastic! The band only exists for 2 years, and went from a 3 piece to an expansion of 4. The music could be comparable with Foo Fighters. A mix of emo-rock ballads, and easy punk-rock songs. Just buy it, damn you!
Bart

Badlands - False Gestures CD
(Rebellion Records)

Instant success seems to exist within the oi /streetpunk scene too. A young guy from a small Dutch town picks up his guitar, writes some tunes about rock n roll, hanging around and scary looking people. A friend of his releases it on his new founded Rebellion records and BAM!!! A couple of thousand copies sold in no time at all. It only became possible since this kid (19 years of age when recording these songs!), seems to know all about life. Like a Mike Ness of streetpunk he puts his finger on the right spot. Honest rock n roll, sung with a "cig-



arettes and whiskey" voice, carrying a lot of emotion. So instead of drinking lots of beer and screaming to shows of Bonecrusher or Dropkick Murphy's, you can also sit on your couch with a pint of lager listening to Badlands. I'm not bald, but this one is a keeper. Rebellion is a label to keep an eye on too; they have a sense for talent. Martijn Welzen

Beans - "So it Goes" CD (I Scream Records)

From a ghost town nearby, Ede (you know, that town that sucks), come those creepy punks from Beans with their third full length. They had the difficult task to come with an album that would sound better than "C'mon Get It On" and that would receive even more good reviews than their last album. Surprise!!!! Beans carries on..... and even better, harder and more punk than ever. Sixteen songs long the great vocals from Sander and Ronald, the sharp sound from Blok on bass and Bikkil, furious on drums. The songs are again a mixture of punk and ska, but now more in the punk direction than the previous album. So don't hesitate to buy this album, not even when you are a real punker. For some ghost pictures and more scary shit go to www.angelfire.com/ns/beans
Carel Groenen

Beyond the Sixth Seal - Earth and sphere CD (Lifeforce Records)

After a nice timid piano intro the mayhem of BTSS is released and strikes with a blast. These guys play Melodic Death Metal and are ready to blow your ears from your head. The songs are very brutal with low grunts, fast drums and death metal riffs but that is not all. BTSS knows how to keep the attention of the listeners. A lot of death metal bands fail to write songs with any variation at all but BTSS proves again with this release to have the talent to write diverse songs. The last years BTSS had many line-up changes. The newest members are Matt Woods (American Nightmare) on bass and Mike McKenzie (The Red Chords) on vocals and these guys fit in perfect. This cd is one of the best and most brutal releases lately. I can recommend this to everyone who likes to bang his head.
Paco

Big D And The Kids Table - The Gipsy Hill LP CD (Householdname Records)

This is the second full-length release from these musicians from Boston. And right from the start of "The Gipsy Hill LP" the great mix between ska and punk is blowing you away. And they can play it all, from extreme punk to easy listening ska music. The eleven songs on this one, are a proof that we gone hear a lot about this band in the next years. So for all you skankers and punks this one you can't miss in your collection. All you want to know about this band you can find on <http://www.bigdandthekidstable.com>
Carel Groenen

Biohazard - Kill or Be Killed CD (SPV records)

At the beginning of the nineties, I liked seeing Biohazard play live (Dynamo 1993 comes to mind). Their music used to be uncomplicated "jump around" hardcore, with some metal and hip hop influences. Highlights in their already vast collection of albums are "Urban Discipline" and "State of the World Address". Shortly after the last mentioned album the band released "Mata Leao" which, besides a few tracks, sucked. I lost track of the band. "Kill or Be Killed" their 2002 album is more pissed off than ever. More hardcore and streetwise than their entire oeuvre. Hey, songs like "World on Fire", "Heads Kicked In", "Beaten Senseless", "Make My Stand" and "Dead to me" are aggressive and straight forward as they possibly can get, must have had something to do with the events that struck Biohazard's home town in

2001. Still you can jump around like a two-ton bull with mad cow disease on any of these tracks. Overall it sounds heavier and more depressed than the old Biohazard. I even thought about using the term hate-core with this record. I still like to older records better, but this one caught my attention again, after six years. Martijn Welzen

Bloodshot - A Pestilence Called Humanity CD (Cartel Enterprises)

Belgium has had quite a name to uphold when it came to metalcore. Liar, Arkangel, Crawspace and many more played their mix of hardcore and metal on many European stages. Now there is a new kid on the block, which bears the name Bloodshot. From the capital Brussels, they unleash brutality and ferocity. This is much more deathmetal than it is hardcore, but it still has some great breakdowns. Also the lyrics touch the dark side of humanity, which is more common within the metal scene. This one could easily be labelled Belgium's heaviest.
Martijn Welzen

Bombshell Rocks - From Here And On CD (Burning Heart Records)

After a line up change at the beginning of this year (Richard Andersson one of the instigators is back after a few years) the Bombshell Rocks released their third full length. And I think their best album so far. The twelve songs on "From Here And On" sound full of energy and full of life. The band has become a bit more melodic but they are still playing strong punkrock. Go listen this album if you like music like Rancid and Stiff Little Fingers. For more news and tourdates check <http://www.burningheart.com/bombshell>
Carel Groenen

Books Lie - Weep CD (Coalition Records)

Books Lie brings you the chaotic emo rock punk as they were used on their first 7" on Level Plane. Of course this album sounds more streamlined and is a much better production. You can clearly hear this band is growing. Books Lie has already left their scars because of their humorous way reflecting their thoughts. In the amazingly thick booklet they present you the lyrics from songs like: "Bobby's got a nosebleed", "Letter to my Psychiatrist", "Fried Chicken and Exorcisms" or "Thoughts on Fucking". Great band.
Joost van Ingen

Bounz the Ball - When We Were Kids MCD (Rise or Rust Records / Horror Business Records)

Austrians answer to Shutdown and Killing Time returns to the front with this five-track mcd. Their artwork and sound have both improved a lot when compared to "Companeros De Vida". They also have improved their music a bit. On the CDV album I called them somewhat old fashioned, with the risk to be out dated. Now they give it some extra effort to make it sound hard and interesting in the year 2k2. Not many bands sound like this anymore though, and for their pitbull attitude to cling to their own way of playing hardcore I give 'em two thumbs up.
Martijn Welzen

Cadillac Blindside - These Liquid Lungs CD (Fuelled By Ramen)

The times when punkrock was only about fun are gone. There's a new generation of bands that sees what goes on in the world surrounding them, and feel bitterness, sadness and maybe even pain as a result of that. Loves lost, social isolation or the wars and diseases that plague this earth. Cadillac Blindside uses their music for therapy. It is moody, dark and bitter, but well written and still catchy. This is music you can feel, just think about Juliana Theory, Thursday, Alkaline Trio and Gameface

who have done more or less the same. Pop music with a hardcore edge. It's Cadillac's second full length (after "Read the Book, See the Movie" from 2000), which is questioning our sanity.
Martijn Welzen

Caliban - Shadow hearts CD (Lifeforce Records)

Caliban has built up a hell of a reputation during the last years, both on record as live on stage. Together with Heaven Shall Burn they are the most known metallic hxc bands from Germany and Caliban gained a lot of respect on foreign tours through Japan and the USA. Now they're back with a new full-length. The songs are still very powerful but a few things changed about the sound. First, the production is very smooth and professional. That's a good thing but on the other hand this results in a record that hasn't got the unique rough production which Caliban used to have on their previous releases. Second, I do miss the typical riffs, which were the base of the songstructures of their old work. Now they use more chords instead of the evil metallic riffs they used to play. Third, beautiful clean vocals are used many times on this album, which add a lot of diversity to this whole record.

Because of all these little changes, this record is not just in the same line as the previous work of Caliban but they add some new ingredients. The result is an excellent album with powerful and very diverse songs and a very professional production that keeps your head banging. Through all the changes, Caliban fortunately managed to maintain the aggression and passion in their music. These new songs still give me shivers, especially because of the beautiful clean vocals. All the songs are outstanding, I just love this cd. I wouldn't be surprised if this album will open new doors for these guys.
Paco

XcanaanX / Thirty Seconds Until Armageddon split-7"

(Ignition Records)

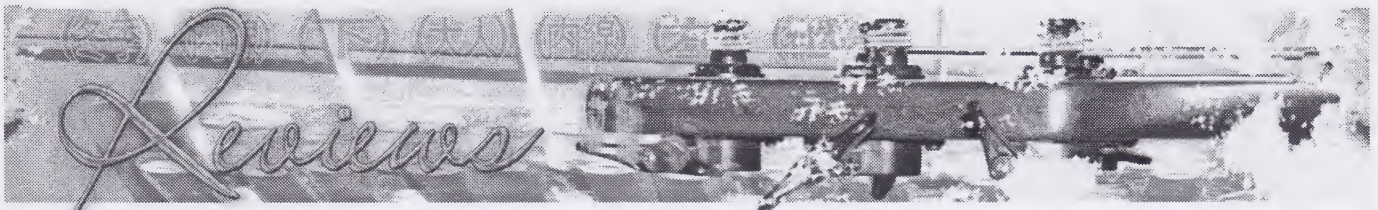
Two heavy bands from the United Kingdom combined their power on this high quality split-7". The layout is superb but let's listen to the music! First up is XcanaanX. They play brutal metallic hxc mosh with a lot of tempo-changes, heavy breakdowns and every now and then some melodic riffs. The production is excellent and the songs are very convincing. TSUA is next. Overall their music is in the same line as XcanaanX but a little bit slower and sometimes more chaotic. Both bands are worth your support. Check out this piece of vinyl if you can.
Paco

Captain Everything - Learning To Play With... CD (Householdname Records)

This re-release from Watford's Pride, two years after the first release is certainly not a bad album. Captain Everything is a good punkband in the vein of early Green Day and NoFX. The fifteen songs are fast with a lot of melody. But I wonder, there are so many of this pop punk groups, will this band get the attention they deserve or are we forgetting them after we put the CD in our CD rack. Because it is not new what they are doing, there is not a specific sound to remember them by. Nevertheless it is a good album and certainly something to check out for the new punk generation. You can visit Captain Everything on <http://www.captaineverything.co.uk> and listen to some mp3's.
Carel Groenen

Chris Moody - Older and Wiser CD (Moody Records)

Moody, singer of the awesome Dead 50's apparently couldn't wait for the new Dead 50's cd to release some new songs. Well, they are not really new songs, but a



collection of music he wrote during the years prior to Dead 50's, but for the first time everyone can hear them. So with Moody on vocals, Moody on guitar, Moody on drums, Moody on bass and Moody on piano he released this cd on his own. 13 great rock n roll tracks that a more laid back than the ones he put out with his band. Nevertheless, they sound absolutely great, and once again Moody proves to have music in his heart. "Older and Wiser" will hopefully be released on an official label soon too, because these tracks are to good to just be released on a cdr.

Martijn Welzen

Clenched Fist - Welcome to Memphis CD (Gangstyle Records)

Time to flex you muscles again. This is hardcore totally in a Hatebreed, Madball mix. I'm not sure how it happens, but, with the exception of a proud few, European bands can never get this sound down. Tough NY influences hardcore have a metallic edge that can sever a few digits without hesitating. For those few European bands that are able to keep up with this style, you have to think Angel Crew or even Knuckledust if this latter band would finally be able to get their sound in order. The lyrics are not really top of the bill, but for those who were complaining about the scene a lot, these guys bring the hard back to hardcore, that's for sure.

Martijn Welzen

Count Me Out - Permanent CD (Reflections Records)

There's something about Count Me Out that gives them a sharper, and harder edge than the contemporary bands, such as American Nightmare or Carry On. When you have given this great record a few spins you know the deal. It's in the drums; they are tighter than all the other bands. The overall sound is fast old school, but touches bands such as Bane or Chain of Strength at some points. That's what probably makes this band stand out. Classic, fast hardcore, with modern influences to give it an original twist, which hardly seemed possible anymore within the old school end of the punk spectrum. A clear hard sound, good lyrics and nice layout top things of. One of the better releases of Reflections this year, so sink your teeth into this one.

Martijn Welzen

Curse Of Instinct / Foreclosure split-7' (D.I.Y.)

It's always nice to notice split release activities between different countries. This time Foreclosure from Holland recorded some songs and released them together with two songs of Curse of Instinct from Slovenia. Let's be hospitable and start with the guest country Slovenia. I know Curse of Instinct from the internet so I kind of knew what to expect. Two great songs with a rough production. You can hear a lot of potential, the song structures include a lot of sudden tempo changes and the vocals vary from high screams and deep grunts to spoken words. The second song with the piano introduction reminds me a bit of Catharsis while other elements (especially with the spoken words) reminds me of Once... Never Again from Belgium. The personal and idealistic lyrics about exploiting the earth are nice. I'm curious how there next release on Burning Season Records will be. When I turn this piece of vinyl two songs of Foreclosure are next. I saw them already about two years ago and the show didn't catch my attention at all. But these two songs do impress. Somehow they sound a little, little bit like Yage while other parts have got a more metal and more evil sound. It sucks that Foreclosure isn't around anymore but this split 7' is a nice way to say goodbye.

Paco

Curse of Instinct - As the rain falls down... MCD (Burning Season Records)

I liked their split 7' with Foreclosure a lot so I had high expectations of this release. What I like the most of C.O.I. from Slovenia is the diversity in their songs. They have got slow parts with screaming vocals and heavy fast parts and their music cannot be placed in a style like emo or tough guy hardcore. Sometimes there are too many different riffs in their songs and they use vague changes between riffs, which make the structure of some songs hard to follow. The fourth song on this mcd is my favorite for sure. They use a piano in this song and the structure of the song is very nice with a lot of contrast between different parts. Some elements of this song remind me a little bit of Once... never again from Belgium. This release is a hard proof that good music is also coming from Slovenia...

Paco

Dag Nasty - Minority of one CD (Revelation Records)

Since they've been gone for a long time, there was a great expectancy about their new release. And they've finally came with Minority of One. An old school sound, which is still alive. The emo-melodic hardcore. The line-up features guitarist Brain Baker (Bad Religion), vocalist Dave Smalley (All, Down By Law), bassist Rogier Marbury and drummer Colin Sears. Beautiful lyrics about the punk and DIY-movement, broken love, friendship, etc. This Music will swarm in your head for days.

Bar

Dandare - Define it, Defeat it DEMO (Moonskull Records)

DanDare is a band that has been around since 1989. But this is the first full length after a couple of demos. On this release they present some great old school hardcore, with influences from early Suicidal Tendencies, Minor Threat and DRI. So this is hardcore back to its roots! On this album you will find eighteen songs (including the songs from the "Pack of Sheep" demo) So I hope, that, after more than 10 years of hard work, this will be the breakthrough for these guys from Holland. Check their site on <http://dandare.tk>.

Carel Groenen

Dark Day Dungeon - Know Your Enemy CD (Let it Burn Records)

From the ashes of Pray Silent and other lesser-known Swiss hardcore bands Dark Day Dungeon got formed in '98. And with a mcd in their pocket already, the band is now up to the task of releasing a full length, with new vocalist Mosh, who used to sing and scream for Cataract and Elision. Now I have to admit the three bands mentioned by name were not really my favourites and not interesting to rise above the grey masses. The band members seem to have had a positive impact on each other and made DDD into a powerful tough metal-core combo. Possibly the toughest band ever to come out of Switzerland. "Know Your Enemy" is not about reshaping the hardcore scene, but all about good music and having a good time. If you're still up to the challenge of moshing things up, this one is yours.

Martijn Welzen

Darkdayrising - Underworld Dreams MCD (Own Release)

From several different Dutch hardcore bands (like Standard, Ignorance, Destructive Conflict and Quaterback) bandmembers found themselves winding up in the same rehearsal room working on a new band they call Darkdayrising. While they were at it all hardcore influences were thrown overboard and what remained was a Kreator, Liar, Deadhead, Deformity metal mix. Fast, bonecrushing, neck-breaking metal. Their only goal seems to be aggression! Not that it just plain noise based on furious anger. They have man-

aged, underneath this layer of "evilness", to include some nice melodies, heavy riffs and killer drum parts. Clear sound, and good layout top things of. Call me stupid, but this rocks...

Martijn Welzen

Daybreak - Drive CD (Straight Ahead Records)

The unknown Swedish Daybreak, at least for me they are, have put out this second album on a Canadian label. It is always a risk releasing your album this far from your home country, but knowing their debut "Through Your Veins" has sold about 3500 copies mostly in Scandinavia, it might be worth a shot. That's only the business side, but what about the more important musical side? Their bio doesn't give much info on how their sound came in to existence, but comparing them to Breach, with their similar way of playing music, might be a good start. Let me tell you this Daybreak is not easy to get a hold of, but that's only to give the fast food and MTV generation a kick in the ass. Slow hardcore, with a Voivod like drive (remember their album "Negatron"?), and some pure old school parts (not unlike Raised Fist), are just as easily blend in with more simplistic straight forward bits, but Magnus' "piercing" vocals remain a constant factor with every song. Might also be a risk in the end, since boredom just waits around the corner. Not this time though, so give it a shot.

Martijn Welzen

Dead For A Minute - Diégèse 10" (Abstract records)

Chaos. Dead For Minute fills my room with dark, chaotic metalcore. The lyrics are in French, but a translation is supplied. Words questioning the true meaning of life. Musically they are influenced by chaotic screamo bands like The Locust. Dark days are rising. Step up for Dead For A Minute!

Joost van Ingen

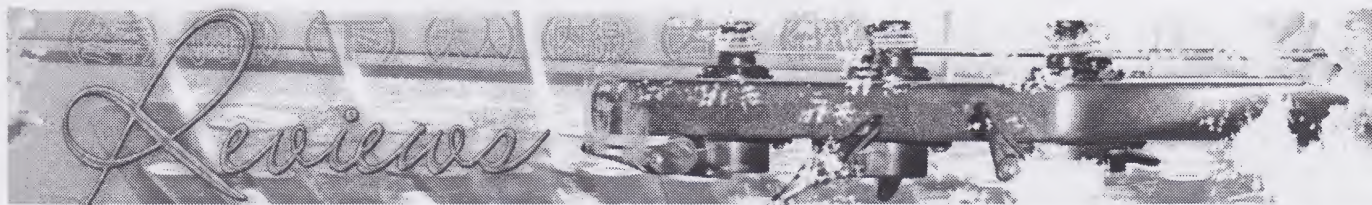
Deadlock - The Arrival CD (Winter Recordings)

With the rise of Heaven Shall Burn and Caliban, metal with a hardcore attitude seems to be growing like wild-fire in Germany. Many of them can't get near to the quality of the two mentioned torchbearers. Maybe Deadlock will get to this stage too. They have more darker, even gothic approach (think Cradle of Filth), and resemble Italian metalband Sadist more than once. Hardcore is not to be found in their music and keeps itself well hidden within the bandmembers personal convictions. As for the kids that love metal this ones just cool. Great melodies and harsh vocals, and any other ingredient you might need to get a good metal record. Personally I'd like to have a more grunting voice instead of this screaming, but the female vocals that take over now and than easily tip the scales back to the good side. As if that even matters, since it is still a great record due to all the other aspects. Nice digi too...

Martijn Welzen

Dead Poetic - Four Wall Blackmail CD (Solid State Records)

Tooth and Nail (Solid States "mother label") has given superb emotional and melodic bands such as Juliana Theory and Graig's Brother. Solid State, used to be more about heavy stuff such as Living Sacrifice and Zao. With opening track "Burgundy" Dead Poetic totally connects itself with the aforementioned bands, including some desperate screaming vocals to back up the melodic ballad like song. Well with "The Corporate Enthusiast" things change, a mixture of Refused and Stretch Arm Strong like music and vocals give everything a modern punk records would need. I haven't been easy to get an image in my head about this record, simply because it is too varied and beautiful to be put in a magazine in words. Ten times, this four piece give their



best and put their feeling (being it joy or aggression) right on the table. They know how to communicate to the people, and it is the music you should be listening to, and not reading this review.
Martijn Welzen

Dead To Fall – Everything I touch falls to pieces CD (Victory Records)

Again a heavy release on Victory. This time it's pure metal. A lot of double bass drumming, many Maiden riffs, a lot of slow breakdowns and a lot of low grunting vocals. Sometimes it reminds me a bit of the great Unearth but then with lower vocals. All the different songs have the same devastating atmosphere. This release is not bad at all but nothing new or special. I like this kind of music a lot, so you won't hear me complaining ;-). For all the people into hard metallic stuff this is something to check out.
Paco

Deaf Penalty – 100 Reasons To Die CD (Full House Records)

"Deaf Penalty was formed in the summer of 2000 by Pekki & Tom in Helsinki, Finland. The main idea with the band was to play some old-school influenced hardcore with lots of nice melodies" and with this second full length they succeed with that goal. Nine punk rock songs with a lot of emotion and enough hardcore mixed to it, so that the music sounds not to Emo. And when they find the right distributors, a band like this can become big. There is enough potential. Feel depressed? Check www.deafpenalty.net.
Carel Groenen

dEFDUMp – The Sparkle Has Become a Flame MCD (Self Fulfillment records)

This is an interesting concept. Three new dEFDUMp songs and lots of information about the band and the world surrounding us on an excellent designed cd rom track. It is complete package of information, and both media are equally important. Whereas most cdrom tracks are just an extra to the music. The new songs of Luxembourg's best-known hardcore band are getting better all the time. They are less heavy this time, but in the end have more impact. To me it sounded like the songs were constructed in an Abhinanda way and were brought with Stretch Armstrong passion, but it all sounds like dEFDUMp. They are a band that has created a sound of their own. More info on this band can be found on the enhanced part. Video's, lyrics etc give you a detail description of the band. More important to the hardcore scene would be the "propaganda" of what we can do to make this world a better place. They might be coming from one of the smallest European countries, but they are destined to become one of the biggest bands on this continent.
Martijn Welzen

Diehard Youth – Without the Kids We Would Be Dead CD (Gangstyle Records)

Hardcore to the bone, what else is there to say? Gangstyle has made a good choice getting some of the newest releases from Thorp records out to Europe. The kids will love a band like this. With the renewed interest in old school hardcore and bands like American Nightmare, Carry On and Shark Attack, DHY can easily catch that same train, and put the pedal to the floor until they achieve ramming speed. "Positive, but pissed" has become the slogan of the newer bands, and they won't take any prisoners, when you listen to and read the lyrics to these light speed songs. Their lyrics still carry the early youth crew spirit, might be a bit generic at times, but might as well still be a need for them. Especially now!
Martijn Welzen

Diehard Youth / Upside Down – Positive but Pissed SPLIT 7" (New Day Records)

Just about the same time Diehard Youth' full length "Without the Kids We Would Be Dead" this split, on good old vinyl, with Dutch band Upside Down hit my record player. With DHY I had to think of a more pissed of Good Clean Fun. Just as positive but a lot more pissed. This can be translated in four fast and furious old school tracks that give a firm 2002 boot to all "1988 is the best" fools. Their session on this cool piece of blue vinyl included a Gorilla Biscuits cover. The b-side is filled with one of the best new Dutch old school bands. Together with Reaching Forward and Reckoning Force we now have a deadly threesome of youth crew and they can (and will) conquer Europe and the rest of the world. Also four fast tracks, but their vocalist uses a higher voice to spit his anger, and they play a Chain of Strength cover. The first pressing (and maybe the only one!!) has 250 copies on red and 250 on blue vinyl. Get this!
Martijn Welzen

Digger – Keystone CD (Hopeless Records)

Have I heard this before? It sounds familiar, too familiar. Here we have your ordinary punk-rock CD, with extraordinary lyrics. It doesn't sound bad, not at all, nothing new that's all. And I really think that these guys can do better. It's their fourth release, and I don't get the impression that I missed anything here. The lay-out though is nice, good illustrations, and original. Well, nothing more to say.
Bart

Dillenger Escape Plan – Irony Is a Dead Scene MCD (Epitaph Records)

Insanity and genius are just an inch apart it seems. Dillenger Escape Plan has proved it all before, but this time they have asked the chief of all insane geniuses to take care of the vocals; Mike Patton (best know for Faith No More). I love Faith No More, and I have always thought the strange ways in which Mike could bent his voice where just amazing. The music of DEP even asks more of him, and again he proves to be up to the task. Metal, hardcore, noise, jazz and industrial parts are kicking you in the head without mercy. Without a doubt the most extreme release on Epitaph ever, although Dillenger remains on Relapse I have been told. Would you like to question your sanity, these four tracks are definitely a shortcut to the loony bin. Tweet Tweet.
Martijn Welzen

Disabuse – Down in Disgrace CD (Faces of Death Records)

One of Holland's oldest Hardcore/Crossover band is back with a new album. The album contains 11 hard and energetic songs with a lot of Iron Maiden influences. After 15 years of playing this band didn't lose their enthusiasm and their energy and maybe their anger is bigger then ever. I think with this album the band deserve at least a tour with a big American band through Europe. Later this year there are plans to bring out a 15 years album. (Cool) For info and bookings go to www.disabuse.net and pay you respect to this oldies in the guest book.
Carel Groenen

Discipline – Everywhere we Go MCD (I Scream Records)

Europe's greatest street core band does it again. Just like before the last album "Love Thy Neighbour" the release of "Hooligans Heaven" and now before the release of their next full length comes "Everywhere We Go" and "why?" I think; just to let us know that there is no doubt that they become better and better and that we must buy the new album. On this MCD are 4 songs, 2

Discipline songs one great cover from The Misfits and one from Rose Tattoo. I don't hope I have to wait long for the new CD. For the latest info you can check <http://www.discipline.nl>.
Carel Groenen

Discipline – Saints and Sinners CD (I Scream Records)

What can I say about a band, which I have said everything about already? With "Saint and Sinners" Discipline again proofs to be the leading streetcore band in Europe. On the new album are 12 great new songs. The absolute toppers on this one are for me "Same Old Story" and "Dirty World". GMM Records will also release this album in the USA, and with this quality, this album could be the absolute breakthrough in the States for these guys from Eindhoven (NL). For more info (for example the Discipline/ Agnostic Front split) check <http://www.discipline.nl>.
Carel Groenen

downthesun – downthesun CD (Roadrunner Records)

It has been Slipknot's drummer who brought the line up of downthesun together. Singer Satone used to be Slipknot's drum techs and he gathered five other nu metal musicians around him and formed downthesun. Two singers, and a sample operator make this line up somewhat different than you usual hardcore or even metal line up. But it still is brutal, and can hit you over the head when you least expect it. I have never like Slipknot themselves, but luckily apart from the power this band sound different, also taking influences from Korn, Faith No More and more common metal bands. Not really an Inside Knowledge band, but way too good to ignore.
Martijn Welzen

Dropkick Murphys – Live on St. Patrick's Day CD (Epitaph Records)

Summertime! Festival time! A time for live albums. On Fat, Sick of it All with a great live album. And now on Epitaph also a great live band, The Dropkick Murphys. Every time I have seen this band live they turned the place into a party zone from festivals to the club performances. And what better gig to record then the one on St. Patrick's Day, an Irish holiday, and a band influenced by Celtic music and some great party punk. Seems to me, all the ingredients for a great party are there. And that is exactly how this 25 song live album sounds like. I wish I could have seen that show at the Avalon Ballroom in Boston. No excuse not to party, drunk as hell, and having the time of my life. So as memory of the summer of 2002 go buy this album and party on!!! Party dates can be found at; www.dropkick-murphys.com.
Carel Groenen

Dweeb – Having a nice time CD (D.I.Y.)

These Dutch punkrockers are around for a while..! Finally they got into the studio to record a full-length demo, called: "Having A Nice Time". Cool thing: the saxophone.. I think you can't label this music as pure punkrock, but there is a rocking edge on it. I'm not surprised when this band comes up with a release with a more technical vision on to it. A nice ABBA-cover.. and even a Christmas-song. Well be sure to check these guys out when they are around..! Also take a look at their web-site <http://www.theworstband.com>
Joost van Ingen

Eden Maine – The treachery pact MCD (Ignition Records)

Out of the dark comes this new talented promising band from the UK. This fine mcd is produced by Kurt Ballou (guitarist of Converge) who flew over from the States

just to produce this mod. The sound of Eden Maine is full of intense, heavy blasting music with a lot of variation, from clearly arranged to chaotic, from slow to fast and from clean to brutal. It's obvious that they invested a lot of time and effort in writing these balanced songs. I'm not very into the style of artwork they used, which you may recognize because it's from the same hands as the last Grade release but if you'll only focus on the music then I can't talk bad about any aspect at all.

Paco

After their first full length, called "Retaliation of Innocence" (1998), all got quite pretty soon with German band Element. For about four to five years we didn't hear anything about them. Original bandmembers Adi (vocals) and Christian (drums) had the idea of bringing the band back. So with the addition of two new members, they started working on this four-track ep which is currently playing over here. I have to say Adi's vocals more and more resemble Daryl of Snapcase. This is new school hardcore, with lots of "groovy" parts which was played quite a lot a few years ago. A great come back of this band.

It looks like many bands are changing their sound lately. Eighteen Visions changed their old chaotic sound for a more clean form of metallic music without losing the characteristic 18 Visions vibe. They still have the metallic riffs and the hard and slow breakdowns but there is now much more space in their songs for clean vocals, and the brutal chaos is nowhere to be found anymore.

About the clean vocals, it's very simple: you love them or you hate them. They are not precise pure all the time and sound a little bit whining. Some songs are excellent while others are very boring. Just decide for yourself if you're into this variation.

Paco

I'm always glad to get some music of bands from countries that aren't yet set with a big mark on my hardcore atlas. And I'm even more glad when the music really kick ass just like this mcd from Embers who're from Hungary. These guys know how to mix the best ingredients. They combine metal/mosh parts from Caliban and Heaven Shall Burn with the breakdowns from All Out War and a lot of melodic parts. Original? Not at all. Kicking ass? For sure! It's time that these guys will tour in this area because I think that they can get a lot of support, especially in Germany. Please give me some more...

Paco

HAAAAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH !!!!!!! YES!!!! THIS IS FANTASTIC. These guys from Oberhausen on the Niederhein in Germany are releasing their first full length, after a MCD and appearances on some samplers. And for me this album is already something never to forget. The story: What to do when you about to record your first album? Simple, ask for example Al Barr (Dropkick Murphys), Roger Miret and Vinnie Stigma (Agnostic Front), Stinky Turner (Cockney Rejects), Mickey Fitz (The Business), Jimmy G. (Murphys Law, Duane Peters (U.S.Bombs) and ask them the question

if they want to record on of their own songs with you. But under one condition, the lyrics are not exactly the same and they are not in English but in German. So what do you get? For example: Murphys Law's – Secret Agent Skin, becomes Secret Agent Spiller, Agnostic Front's - Power becomes Sauer and Dropkick Murphys – Fightstarter Karaoke becomes Randalemacher-Karaoke. Time for the hardcore/punk world to learn German and this great album will certainly help. For more info about these German teachers check <http://www.emscherkurve.de>

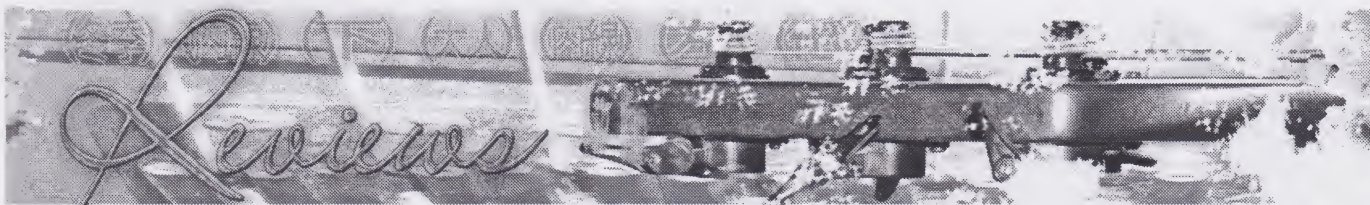
Carel Groenen

Will it ever end, this wave of metallic hardcore bands. With this quality I hope not. Massive guitar walls, technical melodies, harsh vocals and some massive breakdowns. Not all is that cool, since the vocals could use more variation to keep my attention. Darkest Hour comes to mind when having to compare these vocals, but a bit less evil I guess. The band wants to keep on progressing, so they will get this little obstacle out of the way soon. What lies ahead is a yellow brick road towards many cool releases and crazy, powerful live performances.

Martin Welzen

Where am I? What am I doing here? Sorry I am a little bit confused. After listening to this album from these guys from Japan, I found myself back in the sixties, seventies and the eighties all in one time. With Deep Purple and Black Sabbath as their greatest influences the band could not impress me. This is not that their music is bad

We will not review promo-only material. We believe a band wants to share more than only their music. Therefore we will only review releases with their ACTUAL artwork/packaging and full lyrics.



or something, but more that this is not my favourite type of music. Ok they rock, and I think I will have a great time when I see them play on a biker's festival but the CD shall not appear much in my player. For all you old rockers out there: Don't miss this Album in your collection.

Carel Groenen

Evil Conduct - Eye For An Eye CD
(Knock Out Records)

It is great to know that after all great Oi releases in the rest of Europe, that there are in Holland also some Oi heroes. But it isn't strange that I almost forgot about Evil Conduct because the time between their debut album "Sorry...No" and this new release is more than two years. But Evil Conduct didn't sit on their lazy butts in this period. No they used their time to play live shows in England, Italy, Germany, Belgium and Holland. And it shows, this album is better, more mature and from an even higher standard than the first. The record label predicts that the second song on the album "No Pain, No Gain" will be a hit in the punk/Oi scene. This is indeed my favourite song on this CD but that is no wonder, what is more addicting than the sound of a tattoo needle. On the album are ten new songs, one cover from Sham 69 and an old track that the band wrote in the mid eighties. Holland Oi Oi Oi!!!!

Carel Groenen

Face to Face / Dropkick Murphy's - Split ep MCD
(Vagrant Records)

More split ep's seem to be appearing nowadays, and many of them are great; like the NoFX / Rancid split or the Good Riddance / Kill You Idols split. On Vagrant we have another killer combination on one cd. Face to Face and Dropkick Murphy's are giving three songs each (one new track and two covers). Great songs you can't afford to miss if you like either of these bands. My fav would be "Dirty Glass" by DKM, sounds like a follow up to the Bouncing Souls track "Wish Me Well".

Martijn Welzen

Fairweather - Alaska MCD
(Equal Vision Records)

Rock 'n Roll with an emotional touch...! You can clearly hear the influences of bands like Thursday, Dashboard Confessional, Grade in the heavily rocking sound Fairweather produces. The powerful atmospheric sound evokes a "hard to stand still"-sphere. Fast driving punkrock drumrhythms combined with the heavily rocking guitariffs makes me curious about the new full-length release slated for early 2003..!

Joost van Ingen

Falling Cycle - The Conflict CD
(Facedown Records)

This is without a doubt the most promising metalcore band I have heard in a long time. It made me think about Darkest Hour from the first song onwards, but the guitars and melodies in general are so much better on "The Conflict". Hard hitting mosh riffs in the vein of Hatebreed, and almost Iron Maiden like solos are just made in heaven, blend in and can only be made by musicians that live for their music. Modern, but without the chaos. Hard, but without becoming a deathmetal band, and for some reason the band still has this rock edge to their songs. Anyone who's into metalcore and on a quest for something new just tries this one.

Martijn Welzen

Fear My Thoughts - Vitriol MCD
(Let it Burn Records)

This is the stuff I was waiting for. Fear My Thoughts impressed me a lot on cd with their full length '23' and their live performance. These guys know very well how to handle their instruments and know how to use this talent to make some very technical intense metallic evil

music. Compared to their latest full length F.M.T. sounds even more metallic, the slowed down clean parts are taken out of their sound. Fortunately, they still know how to create very diverse songs, which will take your attention all the time. The coolest thing is that the violin is still presented in the new songs, which add a lot to the specific F.M.T. sound. Mix Converge, Botch, Maiden and numerous other great bands, add a violin and this beautiful evil beast called F.M.T. is born. To top this great release off they finish with a melodic metallic song which is all about being true to the metal, which these guys have proven to be again with this great release. This is one of the best European releases of the last few years for sure.

Paco

Five Knuckle - Lost for Words, Far From Speechless CD
(Householdname Records)

London based Household Name records has been moving in the direction of ska and punk rock these past few years when it comes to bands that they have on their roster. Five Knuckle however is one furious hardcore mutha fucker. Short blasts of pure old school hardcore energy. And since they have Black Flag mentioned as their influences you know they are not doing the American youth crew routine. As for modern comparison it made me think of a more melodic version of Raised Fist (less metal that is), or a Misconduct with a typical English punk drive and some ska influences.... Well, hey, it is Householdname right? Good lyrics and nice layout top things off.

Martijn Welzen

Gaza Strippers - From the Desk of Dr. Freepill CD
(Nicotine Records)

From Cleveland Ohio we bring you the Gaza Strippers! Four guys with their third full length. Why this album? "The idea was to get something out quickly to our fans so you aren't waiting any longer". This is of course a good reason for a new album. So they decided to put seven studio songs and 3 live ones on this album. And they have enough material already to say that their next record will be out soon. Gaza strippers are Stoner To the Bone for almost 40 minutes long on Dr. Freepill. Check www.gazastrippers.com for the latest news updates.

Carel Groenen

GBH - Ha Ha CD
(Go Kart Records)

If you don't know who GBH is you are not allowed to call yourself a Punk. The band was formed in 1979 and making albums since 1982. Birmingham's finest Hardcore Punksters is still one of the greatest hardcore/punk bands in the World. On 'Ha Ha' you can listen to 17 punkrock beauties. And of course with this new album GBH is going on new world tour. So this is your chance to become a real punk, don't miss them touring. For all questions to the band you can use their official website on <http://www.punkjunkies.com> and learn that GBH is bigger and better than ever.

Carel Groenen

Good Clean Fun - Positively Positive 1997 / 2002 CD
(Equal Vision Records)

Positive hardcore, that's what this world needs, and Good Clean Fun are the Kings of it. With several releases and tours under their belt and in their back pockets... and probably hidden in a sock under their beds too, they thought it was about time to collect most of the GCF tracks and put them on a nice little disc with catalogue number EVR 74. "Who Shares Wins", "Straight Outta Hardcore", "On the Streets Saving the Scene From the Forces of Evil" and "Shopping for A Crew" delivered the major part of this records. Together with some hard to get and unreleased tracks you get 29 songs of pure hardcore energy. Essential if you don't know the band, and recommended if you have all their other stuff. Get their positive, but important message.

Martijn Welzen

Good Riddance - Cover Ups CD
(Lorelei Records)

This is great! One of the best punk bands of this moment and, with the nerve to bring out a whole album full of covers. From Kiss ("I Stole your love") to "Battalion of Saints"(Second Coming), from Black Flag to Chron Gen nothing is too weird for these guys! This is a beauty for your Good Riddance collection. Ten covers they recorded in their existence. Just for the fans. For info about what Good Riddance is going to do next check <http://www.good-riddance.com>.

Carel Groenen

Hanover Saints - Truth Rings Out CD
(Facedown Records)

The sound of this first full-length album is street punk just like Sham 69, Cock Sparrer and other street core bands. But there is something different about the Hanover Saints. The usual punk lyrics are about the trouble and fun you meet in every day live and this is not different by this band but I think they deal easier with it, because of their religious background. So if that does not disturb you, then this is a great album with 13 songs of pure Punk. Lost your Hope? Listen to the Hanover Saints because their goal is to let the kids smile a raise the awareness of hope in a world gone bad. Want to pay a visit? Go to <http://www.hanoversaints.com>

Carel Groenen

Hardsell - Breaking The Jaw CD
(I Scream Records)

I saw these guys play a few times before they released their debut album "Bark Of The Underdog". After their debut album I have lost the band out of sight for a year or so. And now they are back with their second full length. And "FUCK" this band has grown enormously in a year time! And times are good for the band, a great new album with twelve oi! /punk smash hits, a tour with Slapshot and a gig on the "Punk & Disorderly Festival" in Berlin. One of the biggest Punk and Oi festivals in Europe. Time to attack Europe!!! For contact and bookings check <http://www.hardsell.nl>

Carel Groenen

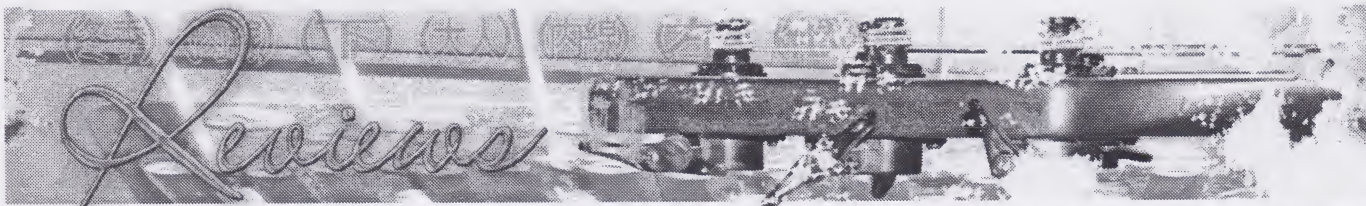
Hatebreed - Perseverance CD
(Universal Records)

"Satisfaction is the Death of Desire" shook the hardcore world in 1997. No doubt about that. The volatile mix of hardcore and metal with their in your face lyrics blew half the world of their socks. The band got big in those years (well for a hardcore band that is), and it all gave some friction between Victory records and the band. Universal gave the Connecticut five piece the chance to put out a record with major resources. Worldwide distro, big budget and Randy Staub turning the knobs in the studio. And still the band can do things their way. This record is uncompromising, hard as a nail, and brutal as fuck. I had to get used to this record since it sounds more compact compared to their previous album, but listening it to is more often it opened up like Jamey's diary. We don't get to know all about him, but only the anger, frustration and fears, but maybe a spark of hope too. Did I tell you Kerry King of Slayer is joining in on one track? Makes my day....

Martijn Welzen

Heaven Shall Burn - In battle... CD
(Circulation Records)

The masters of metallic hxc from Germany are back. Not with a new release but with a re-release of their old work. Some songs are the same as on the old release and the first four songs have a fresh new production. There are also some previously unreleased demo songs from '96 and '97 on this disc. It's nice to hear the progress HSB made the last years, especially in the production and quality of the songs. Everyone who's into HSB should get this beautiful re-release. The songs are



heavy and diverse as hell and these guys simply know how to play some fine groundbreaking piece of metal. The beautiful digipack completes this excellent re-release. Without a doubt a must have for everyone into German metal/mosh.

Paco

Hope and Suicide - Razorblade Smile MCD
(Ideas Of March Records)

Life must be confusing and full of contradictions to this band. The name of the group, the titles of their six-track ep and their lyrics are full of mixed emotions. So is their music. On the bio compared to Bloodlet, but unlike Bloodlet this band can convince me of their purpose within the hardcore scene. Sure the vocals are sounding like Bloodlet, since Scott Angelacos who used to be in Bloodlet is fronting this new band, but other than that... this is adventures metallic chaos core somewhere in between Twelve Tribes and Nora, with a more straight forward edge we got to know from Darkest Hour. For the moment we could call it Florida's best-kept secret, but they will cross the state borders soon and without hesitating, just like they have crossed all musical boundaries to come to this explosion of sound.

Martijn Welzen

Hopesfall - The Satellite Years CD
(Trustkill Records)

Singing like Chad must hurt. I don't mean hurting in a physical sense, like damaging his vocal chords, but hurting him emotionally. His screams, whispers and other various techniques of his voice go straight to your heart. That's what hardcore is about I guess, communicating through music, but in a way it touches you, when it strikes a nerve, and without using any words. Their music is a more emo version of Poison the Well, and some rock influenced give it a catchy twist even though the changes in tempo are impossible to count. The melodies Hopesfall brings on their first Trustkill release are of a level I can only compare it Boysetsfire or Stretch Arm Strong. "No Wings to Speak of", the bands previous release, isn't that far in the past when you follow the linear time line, but musically it is from another world. On the more metallic hardcore side one of my faves this year.

Martijn Welzen

I Adapt - Why not make today legendary CD
(D.I.Y.)

It always draws a smile on my face when I receive material from bands from countries where I'd never thought hxc exists. I Adapt is from Iceland, where Santa Claus lives, and they play great oldschool hxc with a lot of other influences. I don't like most of the new oldschool records because it's done for a thousand times before but this one is outstanding. They themselves say that they don't want to be original with their music and with their lyrics but that it's all about the passion, expression, spirit, honesty, communication and having a good time. You can surely hear the passion and dedication that is put into the recordings. To invest money into the quality the booklet is just a copy but who cares, they give a good impression about their lyrics in the booklet and the cd sounds great, that's all that matters! This record just kicks ass and I seriously think that we will hear a lot from these guys. This record is for everyone who still cares about the roots of hxc because I Adapt knows how to keep the flame burning. Get in touch with them at <http://www.dordingull.com/iadapt> and support these guys.

Paco

IN DK - Kill witely CD
(Go Kart Records)

With the breakup of Chokin Victim, two new bands arised which are Leftover Crack and IN DK. They went in a more catchy punk-rock/ska style than their friends

in Leftover Crack. If you know a little of Chokin Victim or Leftover Crack you know this is worth checking out. The atmosphere and political involvement seems less than C.V. The lyrics aren't so good, and the lay-out is a bit lame. But still this is a nice CD.

Bart

Inhuman - Black Reign MCD
(Released Power Productions)

This release gave me a good feeling about a couple of things.... RPP is back!! Yeah, Alain has found time and courage to start with his label again after a two-year break. Inhuman is back!! Yeah, the band found a new label and were able to put some cool tracks on a record after the demise of the German Kingfisher label (at least for their European release!). The band is well known throughout the underground with the albums "Evolver" and "Rebellion" AND, most important the tracks on this record are what I think NYHC should sound like. Melody of H2O, a rocking groove of Agnostic Front, and pitbull attitude they borrowed from Boston legends Slapshot. This is 80's hardcore from New York with the metal edge you see on modern bands, it is played by Inhuman and called Dark Hardcore.

Martijn Welzen

Inside Conflict / Judoboy split-CD
(Overcome Records)

And here we have a split cd again of two young bands. This time I'm talking about two French bands. Inside Conflict has already released several pieces of plastic. These guys mix some brutal grind noise with heavy vocals and metallic stuff, which sounds not bad at all. The songs are heavy and very convincing and the songstructures result in five diverse songs. Judoboy recorded only two songs for this split release. Their music can be described with only two words: chaotic mayhem. I'm not an expert in this kind of music but these songs do certainly kick ass. Since I can only say 'je ne sais pas' in the French language I also understand nothing about what they're singing about. Just give these bands a chance...

Paco

Instigators - Dine Upon The Dead CD
(Blackfish Records)

Typical that you can tell from some bands, from the first song, where they are from and when they started to play. The Transplants from England with that typical eighties punk sound. This is the first album in the "Gone But not Forgotten" series. So this is your chance to listen to some old punk that only was available on vinyl. And with the Instigators, Blackfish Records is off with a good start. And this makes me curious to the next releases in this series if they are as great as this one I want them all for my collection. More about Blackfish releases you will find on <http://www.blackfishrecords.com>. So check it!

Carel Groenen

It Dies Today - Forever Scorned MCD
(Life Sentence Records)

If there is a metal side to bands like Darkest Hour, It Dies Today is to be found over there. It is possible to add even more metal to ones hardcore without completely loosing the hardcore touch. The massive breakdowns and totally mosh parts even resemble Born From Pain at times, but It Dies Today can loose itself in total metal madness. Rocking melodies, and part sung with a more melodic voice bring rest to songs where we most need it. This one goes straight to your soul, but only if you are into a good slab of metal.

Martijn Welzen

Jesus Skins Nazareth - Unser Kreuz Braucht Keine Haken CD
(Knock Out Records)

Ok, nothing about their music, this is certainly not bad. But come on!! Jesus Skins!? Ok, we have bikers looking as Hells Angels and spreading the word of God, but some baldheads from Germany who are in to Jesus? To me it seems as one big publicity stunt. I really do not have to hear in almost every song that they are Jesus skins. It is great that you are a believer, but I don't think it is a good thing if that is the only thing you can speak about. So go to the church and do not bother me with this nonsense. For all believers meet Jesus on <http://www.jesusskins.org>.

Carel Groenen

Jesse James - Punk Soul Brothers CD
(Golf Records)

Strange!!!! I didn't receive a biography from these guys (and didn't know a thing about them) and so I went to their website on <http://www.jessejames.co.uk> for more information. And on this website I couldn't find anything about the album I have to review. But I learned that the first song on the CD "Empty Tank" has a video clip and already has been played on MTV. After a look to their discography I figured out that this is their first full length after a couple of EP's and appearances on several samplers. Jesse James sounds like a very mature ska punk band. In the twelve songs on this album they almost convinced me for being just as good as for example the "Bosstones", but for a right conclusion I first want to see these guys play a live show. If these are as great as this album.....!!!!

Carel Groenen

Kevorkian - Relief Through Scream CD
(Hopewell Records)

Brutal moshing Rock and roll-core. After 2 7" releases (Who is Who-Day after recs., The Abyss-Minority recs.) and a split LP, this formation from the Czech Republic was finally ready to release this full-length. The emo-noisy influences you heard on previous releases are pretty long way on this album over to the new trashy sound these guys produce. The major line-up changes this band went trough extracted the finest musicians, enough technical riffs for the needed.

Joost van Ingen

Kingpin - Bad Habits Die Hard MCD
(Sobermind Records)

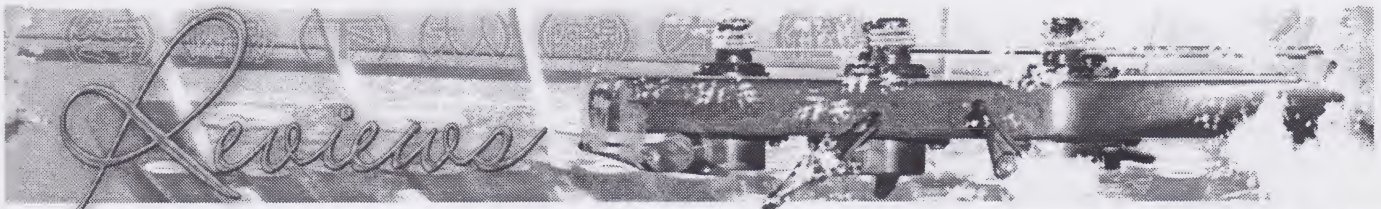
Hailing from the infamous H8000 area in Belgium, Kingpin might be the band to relight the hardcore fire that once scorched the West Flanders area. This band with guitar player Josh who paid his dues with several bands of which Congress is probably best known, has taken every last piece of metal out of their music. What remains is a more American sounding pure hardcore band, not unlike Cro Mags with a slight Agnostic Front touch. Seven great songs, that gives true hardcore power back to the people that have been slapped in the face with mosh bands to often. Nothing new, but totally fresh that's a good way to describe their sound. These guys should join up with Dutch band No Denial and conquer the world. On stage this is music that will make you move.

Martijn Welzen

Last Year - Pictures, letters & Memories MCD
(Goodlife Recordings)

The Last Year is one of those newborn emopunkrock bands. The catchy clean tunes sound familiar and far from original. Though this release is a good production and has a good sound. The band tries to glue your broken hearts with emotion filled lyrics, and poppy riffs. Boys and girls, when you're heartbroken, listen to this album to forget your grief and sorrow.

Joost van Ingen



Lawstreet 16 - DEMO (Own Release)

Four songs, recorded live in a studio. That's totally back to the roots for Alain RPP. He made quite a name a few years ago with Out For Blood and his Released Power Productions label. With his new band he tries to take it back to where, according to the band, hardcore came from. No metal, just furious fast tracks with sing a longs and the usual works. This demo is cool and yes the sound isn't really great, but they have a lot of fun playing their music. Also included is a Warzone cover (Don't Forget...), I totally had to think of the Right Direction version when hearing this one. With a bit of work, this band might get somewhere in the European scene.

Martijn Welzen

Line Of Defense MCD (D.I.Y)

At first they had three songs on a demo tape, and after some good reviews these four guys from the neighbourhood of Nijmegen (NL) decided to put the four songs they recorded at the Bunt Studio's in Utrecht (NL) on a mini CD. This for a good promotion! And I think they did the right thing. The recordings are sure good enough for a CD. The band plays a mixture between the old Biohazard and Hatebreed in a modern way. I can only hope for these guys that this promo will work out well and that they find a label that will release a full length. For more info of Line Of Defense visit their website on <http://go.to/lineofdefense>

Carel Groenen

Loikaemie - III Double CD (Knock Out Records)

This is the third (the title says it all) full length from one of the greatest Oi bands from Germany. And only the layout from the digipack is enough to give a hard one. The new songs on the first part of this album are great and a wonderful dedication to the Oi/Punk scene. And then there is also the second CD with 45 minutes of live material from their earlier releases. So when you have never heard of Loikaemie, this is the chance of a lifetime to learn everything about their music. And when you like the live album then visit www.loikaemie.de and check out the dates and venues where they play.

Carel Groenen

Madcap - East to West CD (Side One Dummy Records)

This is incredible!!! After the new Bosstones and Flogging Molly album this time the new album from Madcap. Twelve hard-hitting punk rock songs from those four guys from Los Angeles, are blowing in your ears. The quality of the recordings is excellent. With "East To West" Madcap proves to be a dignified member of the Side One Dummy family. So for all the fans of Rancid, Stiff Little Fingers and the Bouncing Souls, hurry up, and buy this album. Don't believe me? Check the mp3's on <http://www.madcapunx.com>

Carel Groenen

Mad Sin - Survival Of The Sickest CD (People Like You Records)

The title just has got to have a connection with the fact that Mad Sin, one of the oldest, if not the oldest, German psycho bands, is still around after having experience every good and bad thing a band can possibly go through. Maybe you have to be sick to keep on going and keep on releasing killer records, without giving up the aggression and energy. They have taken influences of blues, rock n roll and country and twisted in to this sick Mad Sin form you can hear on 16 blasts of sonic violence. That's what Mad Sin is, pure unadulterated psycho rock music. Are you sick enough to handle this?

Martijn Welzen

Malkovich - Debut 12"

(Cheerleader Productions and Transit Recordings)

Askr: Mono was already good! Can't wait to hear more from them!

Jan: Good songs, some VERY good. Sometimes it all sounds a bit similar to each other, but in the end one word sticks: ROCK!

Nathan: +1-2-3+4-5+6+7+8+9+10=35[-55+55]>8.2!

Willem: Great metal-tinged screamo hardcore. Sometimes the songs sound alike, but never tend to get boring. Ten songs of rocking madness! Get this!

Daan: First release of Dutch best screamo-core-band! Not as intense as their live shows, but hell yeah, still a great record. It is fast. It is emotional and melodic! Some great melodies! Lyrics are personal and socio-critical: "the billboards sell death and you buy it". Cool cover-artwork. Live they rebel-rock like The Icarus Line, they even wear the same colours. Intense rocking! Looking forward to their next release ;)

Fetch

Michael Monroe - Watcha Want CD (SPV Records)

Back in the day when MTV had just made it to Dutch television I used to watch their shows about hardrock and metal, like Headbanger's Ball. I only was interested in seeing the new death and thrashmetal videos, but that particular style wasn't really big at the end of the 80's, at least not on MTV. The most part of the show was filled with "sleaze rock", bands like Poison, Ratt, Winger, Guns N Roses and Motley Crüe polluted the airwaves. Most bands just following others to earn a quick dollar of the backs of teenagers. In 2002 things are different with the rise of nu-metal, this type of R'nR has disappeared and I'm 15 years older. So probably Michael Monroe came in on the right time. Rock n Roll all the way, which has this typical 80's sleaze rock edge. Hair dyed blonde, make up, crazy clothes... the works. Now it is underground I reckon. And this style has always flirted with punk (like they often mention The Ramones, Johnny Thunders and UK Subs). Michael has even included a UK Subs cover on this one. The faster tracks simply rock and take me back to times long gone. He should stay away from the ballads however. Anyway, like the saying goes; "if it is too old, you're too loud".

Martijn Welzen

Mixtwitch - Smile For The Money Shot (MoonSka)

Mixtwitch from Ireland is ska, pop and punk. And this is their second full length. Although they signed for this album with a ska label, for me this band is more punk and will certainly not look bad on a label such as Fat Wreck. The concept of their music is nothing new but they really know how to play punk rock. So I hope for these guys they made the right decision to go to MoonSka for releasing this album and get the attention they deserve. More about Mixtwitch you can find on <http://www.mixtwitch.com>

Carel Groenen

Morning Again - The Hand of the Martyr CD (Alveran Records)

I'm not sure what to think about this release. Morning Again is a killer band and their two ep's "Hand of Hope" and "Martyr" can be found in my cd player on a regular basis. And without a doubt Morning Again was one of the first bands to mix hardcore and metal with great success. The band has also been copied more than once I might add. The part, which puzzles me, is the fact that apparently these tracks are now for the first time widely available throughout Europe. I thought Goodlife, the label that released these songs one two separate tracks had a huge distro network. Man, every distro had these cd's five years ago, even I sold a ton of them. In the cd inlay you can find the real story; MONEY, apparently the royalties issue came to spoil the fun once again. Fact

remains Morning Again is a superb band, this re-release comes with great new artwork, AND included is a recording of Morning Again's first ever Euro show (in Belgium). Get it if you have missed the first releases, but I doubt you have.

Martijn Welzen

Muad'dib - The spark marks the end MCD (Benihana Records)

This is the debut mcd of Muab'dib from Germany which is around since the middle of 2000. Their sound is typical German, a lot of metal with many mosh parts. Especially the slow metallic riffs in the second song remind me a lot of Heaven Shall Burn, but the overall sound of Muab'dib isn't that much like the metallic hxc bands that Germany already has. There isn't that much variation in the vocals but to me that isn't a problem because the vocals sound very rough and not boring at all. This vocalist doesn't need variation because his screaming voice sounds great. The production could have been a bit better, especially the guitars and the drums but that is just a little point of critic. This is a very good debut and I'm sure we'll hear more from these guys in the future.

Paco

Murphy's Law - The Party s Over CD (Age of Venus Records)

At the same day I got this cd, summer kicked in. It had been raining for days in a row, but Murphy's Law made the sun shine again. EVERYTHING about this cd is about having fun and having a party. So "The Party's Over" has nothing to do with the band itself, but more, like Jimmy G. puts it "with the state of NYC and the underground music scene". So this album came at the right time. Lets kick this New York establishment in the behind and let them know where bands like Agnostic Front and Sick of It All are talking about when people mention "roots". With the help of Sal from Demonspeed, Rick from D-Generation and Eric from Skarhead and the excellent sound, Jimmy made this one almost a must have if you love NYC mixed with lots of rock and a bit of ska. Strange the bio didn't mention H2O when they had to compare this band. "The Party's Over" gave me the same good mood, as did the debut by the other New Yorkers.

Martijn Welzen

Mustard Plug - Yellow #5 CD (Hopeless Records)

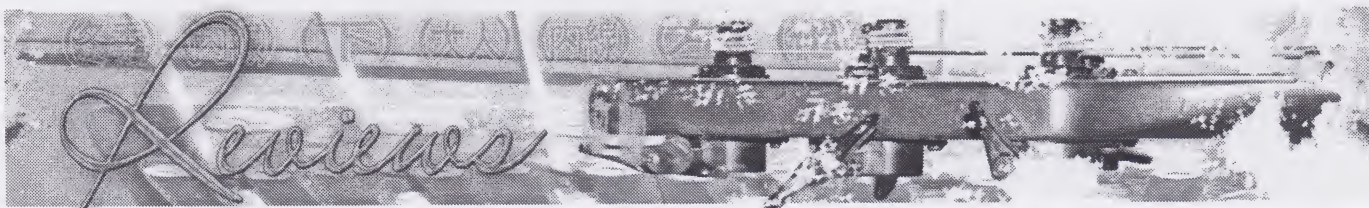
"Mustard Plug are not afraid. Mustard Plug are not ashamed. Mustard Plug are one of the best third-wave ska bands in the world. Scratch that, the best ska-punk band in the world. Better than ice cream on a warm day. Better than a week at Disneyland. Better than Elvis in Vegas or the Beatles at Shea Stadium. Better than your mom." What can you say about such a statement in their biography? This is the fifth full length of the band and the first I ever heard of them. And I am convinced that they certainly are one great band. And they proof that on Yellow #5 in eleven songs that make you laugh. And that's what ska is all about "don't worry be happy" More fun and laughter you will find on <http://www.mustardplug.com>.

Carel Groenen

Nerf Herder - American Cheese CD (Honest Don's Records)

Never liked them, not gonna change. I can't stand this kind of pop-punk(punk?). Can't stand the vocals, music, lyrics.. This kind of humor (if you can call this humor) is so stupid, it wares of fast. It gets dull. And with that, so will Nerf Herder. Sorry, nothing more to say.

Bart



Nine Lives - The Fugitive CD
(Too Damn Hype Records)

Somewhere around 94 / 95 the great melodic hardcore band Black Train Jack broke up. Guitarplayer Ernie soon returned to the front with Grey Area. What I missed most where the great vocals of Rob Vitale, he made BTJ to what it was. Apparently Rob and bassplayer Brian also returned with a new band soon after the breakup. Some time ago, the band released their debut called "The Fugitive" on Too Damn Hype. Nine Lives is totally in the same style as Black Train Jack, but more varied and I think a bit more rock n roll. Great melodic hardcore which can give people a smile on a rainy day.
Martijn Welzen

No Choice - Dry River Fishing CD
(Newest Industry)

"Punk" as a form of music has transformed itself into God knows how many different varieties. The roots (which lay in England as far as I know) are hardly visible anymore. No Choice has that old touch, which I almost called retro. As if they were a bunch of hippies...not. No Choice has that real punkrock feel, including the political side that sometimes is deadly missed in nowadays scene. No Choice can play fast, aggressive, but also with emotion and sound totally fresh. Always from the streets and never preaching. They reminded me a bit of the "Against the Grain" period of Bad Religion with a more typical UK punk touch of the 70's (Crass, the Ruts; you know the deal right). Sing a long and learn!
Martijn Welzen

Nodes Of Ranvier - Lost senses, more innocence CD
(Facedown Records)

Facedown searched nations far and wide for a band that would bring variety, versatility and a fresh new sound to their roster and with Nodes Of Ranvier they've found the right band. Yeah baby, they're totally right. Without losing the blasting metallic sound these guys know how to bring some diversity with unusual riffs, great tempo-changes which leads to a powerful fresh sound. Heavy groundbreaking combined with melodic clean stuff, as well instrumental as in vocals, these guys know how to keep me focussed on their sound all the time. This is for sure the best recent Facedown release and it's time that you'll get to know this band.
Paco

No Fun At All - Master Celebrations CD
(Burning Heart Records)

When you have to mention two bands that shaped the Swedish punkrock scene during the 90's, most people will come up with Millencolin and No Fun At All, both bands have a wide fanbase worldwide and toured around the globe several times. No Fun At All called it quits a year ago, and to commemorate this fact, Burning Heart put out some sort of best of compilation that spans the bands releases from 1993 to 2000. For the fans that already have all the releases, it might still be interesting due to three new and unreleased tracks, one being a GangGreen cover. This and a nice layout and pictures makes it more than just a way to make a quick Euro.
Martijn Welzen

Nourish the Flame - Trial into Triumph CD
(Blood and Ink Records)

The layout and song titles made me think about bands like Dogin' Bullets and Disciple AD. The Christian background also fed this assumption. Music wise they are somewhat in the same direction, more metallic than Dogin' Bullet and more straight forward than Disciple AD. I had to get used to the vocals, since just like their label mates Truth Be Known, it sounds forced, but singer Mike is definitely more consistent, and shows

some vocal muscles when needed. All in all a fairly simple metalcore record, with some obvious break and mosh parts, I enjoyed it nevertheless.
Martijn Welzen

One Man Army - Rumors and Headlines CD
(BYO Records)

Sometimes I receive an album to review from a band I have never heard before, and with some bands that is strange. Same story for this album from One Man's Army, this is their third full length and the first time I heard about them. And this is a band I wished I heard sooner from. Dammed, these three guys from San Francisco make that kind of punkrock that makes you shiver. The twelve songs on this album keep on rocking out of your stereo from beginning to the end. The link for the official OMA site (<http://www.1manarmysf.com>) didn't work when I try to visit it, so for more info check the BYO records site on www.byorecords.com
Carel Groenen

On The Rise - Burning Inside CD
(I Scream records)

I received this album a day after I seen "On The Rise" playing on the European Hardcore Party #8 in Maastricht (NL). On that show they did make a good impression on me. But that's not very surprising because this band contains members of two of New York's greatest bands on this moment "Maximum Penalty" and "Agnostic Front". And it will be no surprise that these guys play Hardcore the New York Style! I heard the following statement a few times the last months: It is time for some bands to outgrow the masses and become better than the rest! And I know that's difficult because there are a lot of good bands these days. "On The Rise" is Old School Hardcore like the "Gorilla Biscuits" and "Warzone" but they are not on that level, yet!! Certainly not bad album and I think the next one will be even better. And maybe become new heroes. For more info you can check their website on www.ontheriseisnyhc.com.
Carel Groenen

Paint the Town Red - Last Gang In Town CD
(Join the Teampayer Records)

Ladies and Gentlemen may I introduce to you.... The Munich all star hardcore band; Paint the Town Red. Germany's most southern of the bigger cities (capital of Bavaria) has brought forth this hard-hitting metallic outfit, sometimes with a slight Bane touch. People from bands such as My Hero Died Today, I, Phoenix Rising, from the Join the Teampayer Records and Let It Burn Records, from Keep the Faith fanzine and from Avocado booking have joined this team to mosh things up. They have the experience of playing in a band and being active in general, not to mention they are nice persons too. Another German band that is destined to kill.
Martijn Welzen

Peter Pan Speedrock - Speedrock Chartbusters Vol.1 CD
(Suburban Records)

The mighty PPS returns with their own "Garage Days Revisited" or "Spaghetti Incident". Nine covers of bands they like and have influenced Peter Pan to write the music they play today. They stole and mutilated songs by Turbonegro, The Cult, Social Distortion and even Led Zeppelin, among others. I have to say a real Peter Pan Speedrock record can beat this cd any given time. Just compare their version of The Misfits "Attitude" to the Guns N' Roses version (on the "Spaghetti Incident"), and you know it is not their best effort. Nevertheless it is a great cd which shows where the Eindhoven Rockcity band came from. I wonder why Elvis has been left out?
Martijn Welzen

Plankeye - Wings to Fly CD
(Bec Recordings)

I almost fell into the trap of trying to define the line where hardcore or punkrock ends and pop or alternative begins. That is not possible I think... Plankeye however is haunting me in my sleep of how to get a grip on the record, which lies before me. I have decided just to focus on the quality, and to avoid any strange labels like "indie-emo-pop-punk". I'd rather tell you this band has listened to bands like Radiohead, and gave a little punk twist to it. It balances in between Craig's Brother and Juliana Theory this way. Bands like This Beautiful Mess and Get Up Kids also come to mind. Most songs are a bit too slow, and are unable to keep my attention, so whatever the musical style is, it just doesn't stick. Their record is also called "The Very Best of Plankeye", which makes me kind of sad.... Since if this is their best material, they won't be my favourite band, and I shudder to think I would ever have to hear their worst songs. Try it if your emo heart can take this waterfall of tears.
Martijn Welzen

PN - The Art Of Being 'we' MCD
(Funtime records)

PN is working. Six brandnew songs on already their 7th release. There is not much left from the metallic sound PN used to produce. On "Dreamwave heroes" you could already reckon that vocalist Johan was striving for the more clean, more like Deftones stylish moaning sound. On The Art Of Being 'we' this fully works out. PN knows to create their own atmosphere of emotional strength combined with a dark touch of fear. Live and on their new album you can feel the passion which this album is created. Up to the next full-length...!
Joost van Ingen

Proclamation - Let the Truth Be Told CD
(Life Sentence Records)

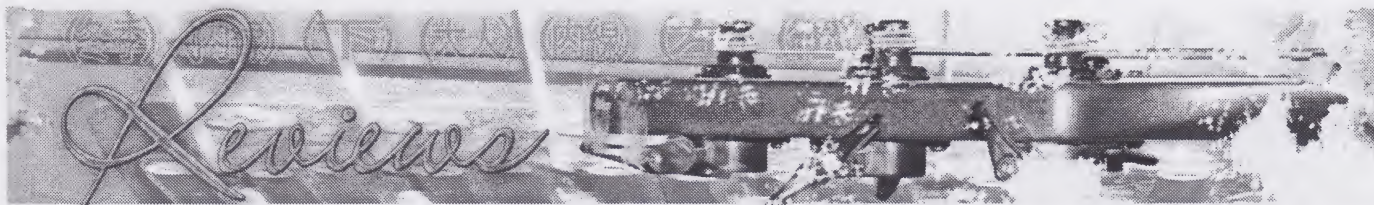
This Proclamation cd is some sort of discography. I'm not sure if all Proclamation tracks are included but with releases such as "Taken By Force", "Straight Edge Hardcore", their demo and several tracks that apparently never made it to an actual release, you pretty much have all songs. Proclamation is one of the fastest most aggressive old school bands I have ever heard. They are from the Ten Yard Fight, Floorpunch generation, but never made it to be some sort of legend. According to the extensive bio in the booklet, this is the band no one liked during the last years of the previous millennium. Sure their lyrics are pretty generic, but when a band dares to include Anthrax or SOD riffs to their hardcore they ROCK. And so does Proclamation. You have to take their lyrics (which are not included) with a grain of salt, and swallow them whole. Boston's most hated... but also Boston's hardest and fastest.
Martijn Welzen

Puffball - Leave Them All Behind CD
(Burning Heart Records)

"These cats have definitely grown up on a drag race track and now they've got nothing better to do than eat steel, drink oil and brush their teeth with petrol" And that is exactly what this album sounds like. A lot of metal banging with a smooth but greasy voice. Dirty Rock and Roll to the bone! After seven years these guys from Sweden developed their own unique sound between rock and punk. Motörhead fans attention!!! The new Puffball album is a fact. And with this one they "Leave them All Behind" in fourteen songs. More facts about Puffball are on <http://www.burningheart.com/puffball/>
Carel Groenen

Raging Speedhorn - We Will Be Dead Tomorrow CD
(Steamhammer Records / SPV)

Singer Frank once said they wanted to become the noisiest band alive. I'm not sure if they are, but they are well on their way. Having been inspired by Black



Sabbath and Led Zeppelin, they use hardcore, (death)metal and some vocal muscles to show there's always a way to make more noisy. There's rock and there's rock, you know. Mainstream rock, sounds nice maybe preaches some rebellion, but all within acceptable limits. Speedhorn rock, is more like having a flock of hungry dinosaurs running straight at you. There's no escape and the adrenaline and fear you feel at the moment the first t-rex sinks his teeth in your flesh, that's when you know this is ROCK. It is pure Neanderthal rock... pure, primitive cavemen rock, but with the instruments and production of this century. Don't let the pictures of the band mislead you, they might look sort of friendly, but having met them musically, you know you will be dead tomorrow. After having heard this big band of excellent rock music, you could use the rest anyway. Get this musical bungee jump and feel alive for the first and maybe even the last time.

Martijn Welzen

Raised Fist - Dedication CD (Burning Heart Records)

Yes... Raised Fist is coming to wreck your house with their best record to date. The band is angry. With "Ignoring the Guidelines" already tried to put the furious killer Mesuggah influenced metal / hardcore on a record, but this one even beats that album. Something must have happened during the time in between the records. Raised Fist is even angrier than before and instead of raising their fists they'd be happy to knock you some teeth out. In a musical way that is. This is pure energy and furious anger, but with some terrific melodies that cry desperation. The first song, called "Get it Right!" surely sets tone for the record. Hardcore is playing a bigger role again on this album, like it did in the past, but the massive walls of guitars stay intact. Not only are they Burning Hearts heaviest, but also Europe's most furious. If Slayer would be playing 1988 oriented old school covers it would sound something like "Dedication". Youth Crew metal anyone?

Martijn Welzen

Raksasas - Bleed for what it is Worth CD (Benihana Records)

Which movie was it? I can't remember... but I do know the music... "The X-Men"? Possibly. Ah, screw it... the intro isn't that important, it's the metallic hardcore these Germans have to offer. Starting with an all out Arkangel verse the music soon turns to an even more metal approach, and the music in itself is way cool, in a Heaven Shall Burn kinda way, but the vocals come across a bit forced. The deepness and growls of them seem to be more important than the aggression. I might say a bit of Hatebreed would really spice things up. Eight tracks are still destined to grind you down, and when the mosh hits you there's no return. Good start, but please work on the "knocking some teeth out" part, 'cause that's what makes metalcore most interesting to me. By the way, I AM a pacifist, in case you're wondering.

Martijn Welzen

Red London - The Soundtrack of our Lives CD (Trash2001 Records)

After their last to albums: "Streetlife ...Best of Red London 21 tracks from '83 -'99" and "Live in Leipzig" I really thought these guys were saying goodbye to the music scene after 20 years. But then came a surprise, a brand-new studio album. And these oldies are still playing very well. On this album are again 13 punkrock classics and I'm thinking these guys will never give up playing and touring. You will never know, so if you get the chance to see Red London live, go to the gig and have a beer with the band afterwards. It could be your last chance! Check their website for the latest info and tours, you find it on www.redlondon.org.uk

Carel Groenen

Red Reaction - Welcome to the Warzone (Coalition Records)

Again an old school hardcore band playing old school before it got boring. Fast punk definitely in the vein of bands such as early Sick of it All, Negative Approach and some Creep Division. It is the power and the sheer aggression that makes Red Reaction to what it is, not the originality. It is energetic, fast, furious and from Boston. One peculiar fact though... the cd has three bonus tracks which are not included on the LP. I thought promotion vinyl would make it even more old school.

Martijn Welzen

Regurgitate - Hate filled Vengeance CD (Relapse Records)

Another sonic assault comes creeping this way... from Sweden this time around. 18 blistering tracks of grindcore with some deathmetal influences. It is sheer bloodshed all around with song titles such as "Fleshmangler", "Bleeding Peptic Ulcer", "Drastical Decapitation" and "666 Casualties" to mention only those songs fit for kids under the age of 18. It is brutal, merciless and loud, but that's what classical grind is all about. Ten of these tracks already hit the streets in 1994, but were re-recorded with the 2002 sound quality, to do even more damage.

Martijn Welzen

Reply - A trail of... MCD (Circulation Records)

The first thing that hits the eyes is the beautiful paper of the artwork. Well done! I know Reply from their release on Funtime a while ago. Now they released a new mcd on Circulation Records from Germany. I have the same problem about the music as with their old release. That's the fact that the song structures are very vague to me. It's very hard to follow the different riffs in the songs but I think some people will not see this as a negative aspect but as a positive one, it all depends on your own taste. The explanations of the lyrics are a nice way to get to know what's going on inside the head of the writer. Check this one out just for the beautiful artwork and form your own opinion about the music, when you're into vague confusing song structures you'll probably love it.

Paco

River City Rebels - No Good, No Time, No Pride CD (Victory Records)

Heil!, what is happening? This was the first thing I said when I started to write this review. What happened, after few times listened to this album on my stereo, I put the disc in my computer, and the screen went black. But no worries, there are some clips from their tour you can watch on your pc. So what is up with the rebels? Started in the summer of 99 and this is already their third full length on Victory Records. These guys keep on bringing old school punkrock songs with great political awareness. On this album twelve of the latest productions of the River City Factory! Do you like The Clash or The Sexpistols? Yes? Than this album is something you are not allowed to miss. For more info about River City Rebels Products visit www.rivercityrebels.com

Carel Groenen

Roger Miret and the Disasters - S/T CD (Epitaph Records)

When I say Roger Miret, You say... Agnostic Front. Wrong, this is a totally different band with totally different music. The front man of one of the oldest hardcore bands shows that he can do more than just shouting. The Disasters are street punk nothing more nothing less. No hardcore but just great street punk. On the self-titled album there are 14 songs to be found, which certainly will be liked by fans of The Forgotten, Tiger Army, Cock Sparrer, and the Business. Hard times to come for A.F. because I think that Mr Miret will become very busy

with his new band. On <http://www.thedisasters.com> you will find all the info you need about the band.

Carel Groenen

Saving Throw - We're never on good terms with the light MCD (Let it Burn Records)

Everyone into Shai Hulud and Strongarm please pay attention. You have to check out Saving Throw from Syracuse. These guys know how to mix melodic and metallic riffs into an intense passionate sound with a lot of diversity. It's sad that this disc only delivers three songs because these songs simply make me want to hear more music from these guys. Without a doubt a very talented bands with a lot of potential. They already toured the USA twice and played the Hellfest twice and it's about time that Europe gets to know this band.

Paco

Scalping Screen - 13 Revolting Strains DEMO (Own release)

"Our goal is to achieve one thing: Music that... kicks ass!" it's right there in the bio that came with this cdr. Sounds pretty simple, but for most bands it is still a hard nut to crack. Scalping Screen has managed to give me the idea this is a band for the future. I mean, they only existed five month prior to this release, and have put it out without any help from a label. And their music? Well, Hatebreed, Machine Head and Madball come to mind. A few deathmetal grunts and a bit of Cro Mags vocals lines and Scalping Screen might be the best next thing from Finland. Their letter also says: "We believe strongly in our band and our music". I would too, if my demo would already sound this good. Labels that sign tough metalcore bands... here's your chance.

Martijn Welzen

Sentence - War CD (Goodlife Recordings)

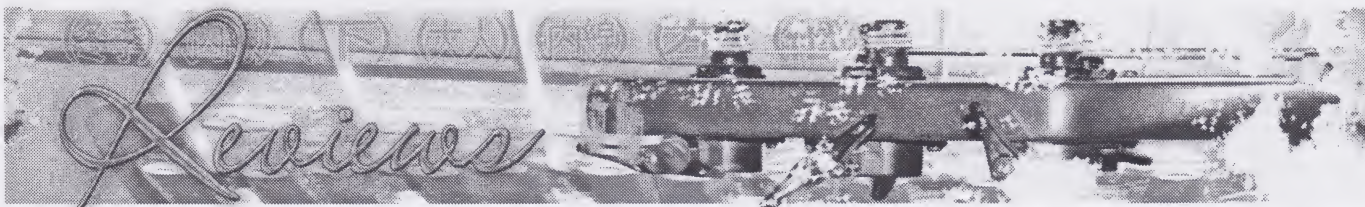
At the Goodlife fest in the summer of 2001 these guys didn't impress me at all. Never heard anything from them after this show so I thought they weren't around anymore until I received this new full-length. To my surprise this album is not as bad as I expected. To be quite honest, I even like it. These guys know how to play 'tough-guy' hxc that keeps my attention for more than one minute. All the songs on this album sound heavy as hell and with the tempo-changes and the combination of flatten guitars and metallic riffs these guys also know how to bring some variation into their sound. It isn't that refreshing but it just sounds brutal! So this release surprises me positive, Italy is back on the map with this brutal release.

Paco

SFP - Making the Hood Look Good CD (Eyespy Records)

WARNING: this site contains extremely handsome dudes and is not suitable for sensible girls who fall in love very quickly. This is the first line you get to read when you open the website from these Belgium guys. So let me tell you what kind of music these handsome boys are playing. It is pop music mixed with skatepunkrock with and sometimes a little bit Emo. Absolute the best song on this album is "Britney" about Miss Spears. I believe everything they say about her. It also did hurt me when she started dating this Justin. On the album are eight songs and if these guys are lucky and meet the right people they can become as big as Blink 182 with this material, but then they have to be very lucky because there are a lot of bands waiting for the same chance. Go and download "Britney" on <http://users.pandora.be/sfp>.

Carel Groenen



Shattered Realm – Broken ties... spoken lies CD
(Alvran Records)

When the first decibels reaches my ears I thought this was just another standard tough guy band but in fact Shattered Realm uses more very slow and hard breakdowns and way more metallic riffs a la Slayer. Also the vocals have got a lot of diversity. Those elements make this release a good one. All the standard tough guy hardcore is done already by too many bands before so why only copy this stuff? Those guys know how to do something different with those characteristic elements and add some fresh elements. Although I'm not very into this kind of hxc I can imagine that a lot of people will dig this music for sure.

Paco

Sick of it All – Live in A Dive CD
(Fat Wreck chords)

I think this band can never disappoint me, since to me this is the best band ever. This album, the third one in line, of the "Live in a Dive" series, really is a masterpiece. It's like Lou, Graig, Pete and Armand are performing in your own living-room. After Bracket and No Use For A Name, S.O.I.A had the honour to record this live album, and they are well known for there live shows and on this album it all comes to place. On the album they play a mixture of old and new songs, like: Step Down, Just look around, Globberin' time, Scratch the surface and even Injustice system, a song they hardly play any more! The C.D. is enhanced with live footage from the show, and really funny band interview. When you buy the L.P. you get an extra bonus track and an actual comic book. So buy this 23 track (24 if it's the L.P.) hardcore attack! If you've never heard of this band before, but I doubt it! Check out the official Sick Of It All page on the world wide web: www.sickofitall.com
Evelien Hogendoorn

Sideline – s/t DEMO
(D.I.Y.)

And again a band from Maastricht (NL) but this time no Right Direction or Backfire! but Sideline. At first, when I looked at the cheap CD layout it didn't look very promising to me. But after two sessions of this promo in my CD player I was convinced: Sideline is Cool! The diversity of songs (from old school to metal core) makes that the six songs demo is never boring. The songs are full of melody and a lot of power. How to order this demo? Take a look at www.sidelinehardcore.com
Carel Groenen

Skool's Out – After Hours CD
(Eye Spy Records)

"After Hours" is one of the friendliest records to come out of Belgium this year. Fast melodic punkrock with a nasty hook, or so it says in the info. In general it made me think of Down By Law, but a bit more on the pop side. They rock, and nothing more to say about that. All in all the whole cd could use some more variation, and changes in tempo, and they should use the "Iron Maiden" like guitar work a bit more, that's something new in the punkrock scene.
Martijn Welzen

Smackdown – S/T 7"
(Coalition Records)

"There is a whole new whirlwind sweeping through the world of "punk" music and shaking it to it's very foundations. For too long, the same tired tight wearing punx with the same old moves have dragged their sorry asses around arenas until even dedicated fans have begun yawning and yearning for something better. Now a new generation of hardcore heroes are here with a message: better move or we lay the Smacketh Down on you'r candy ass!! Because this is hardcore That's down and dirty and decidedly extreme. The very best musicians and highly intellectual personality's e.e.e..ever to

be beholden on a stage together, to thrill and entertain you, the millions and millions of SmackDown fans over the world who's cheering their name: Go, SmackDown Go! Go, SmackDown Go! There is a ton of ways to play and they all share one thing: They are the biggest stars e.e.e..ever to meet in a the same band and the biggest band of all time. SmackDown my friend, is larger then life! Create you'r own killer bands with catchy names. IT doesn't matter what you'r name is! ..and bring it in to stomp the guts out of the competition of being the most electrifying band in the scene e.e.e..ever. Its time for you and you'r tiny little band to go one on one with the great ones. Because to be the band, WHOOOO! ..you have to beat the band!!!! And as long as SmackDown is the biggest band e.e.e..ever will they steal You'r guitar-riffs and make them their own, they will steal You'r attitude and they will steal you'r concept and make it their own because amateurs is copying and genius steals, and SmackDown my friend is no machismo hardcore brain damaged amateur Twisted Sisters wannabe punk bitches, No,no,no...no, they are geniuses! Highly intellectual political geniuses. WHAT!? I said highly intellectual political geniuses! SmackDown the band with thousand faces are not afraid to stab you in the back when you least expect it. Don't you never e.e.e..ever think that you know SmackDown. SmackDown is excellence! The most charismatic show band that e.e.e..ever have enter your concert hall. SmackDown are here to save the hardcore scene and that's the bottom line, WHAT!? Because SmackDown said so! this wrestling hardcore manifesto is not a joke its for real, if you can smell.... what SmackDown is cooking". What more can I say about twelve minutes of hardcore in seven songs? Like wrestling? Check <http://www.the-smackdown.cjb.net>
Carel Groenen

Snapcase – End Transmission CD
(Victory Records)

This is it. End Transmission. The long awaited new album of (I think I can say) the hardcore legend Snapcase. On the past albums you can hear the band is still looking for their sound. On their last album Designs For Automation you can hear more technical influence of a Refused-like band, but they haven't made it yet. End Transmission steps over the Refused-like thing and with some rock influences they finally found their own sound. A mixture of heavily rocking guitariffs some old school rhythms make it hard to keep you standing still. A completely new turn for this band..! Snapcase is back..!
Joost van Ingen

Snowdogs – Deep cuts, fast remedies CD
(Victory Records)

Since their last release, much has happened. They seem more serious and mature. Some songs are really good (in the likes of their debut album, 'Animal Farm') but others are a bit to soft, not the way I expected to hear from Snowdogs. Like 'freedom for everyone' and 'hour of sunshine'. In short, if you liked Animal Farm, go check this out. If you never heard of them, first give Animal Farm a try.
Bart

Soul Emigre – Leaving out empty bodies 7"
(D.I.Y.)

This band consists of three members, one from the USA and two from Holland. After some jam sessions they decided to record five songs and release it on this little piece of vinyl. The songs have a nice rough underground sound but the music is hard to describe. It's not music that you can put a label on. Some of the songs have a punk sound while others are more in the direction of As Friends Rust so there's enough variation on this 7". Again a nice new band from Holland that deserves your attention. If you're interested get in touch with them through this address: Jorick Émigre, Heemskerkstraat 22, 6828 ZG, Amhem, the Netherlands, mail: xjorickx@yahoo.com.
Paco

S.P.E.C.T.R.E. – The Microfilm Album CD
(Alternate Records)

Many different styles have come by during the years I'm trying to write reviews for different zines, but S.P.E.C.T.R.E. give me a totally new idea about music and the way you can give it back to the world. Can you imagine Dick Dale, joining up with Napalm Death? Can you think about, Faith No More, International Noise Conspiracy and Victim's Family playing together? This bunch of Danish dudes have written the ultimate soundtrack to the new Quentin Tarrantino movie if he would ever direct a film about surfing Elvis zombies who came down from the surface of Jupiter to start a pschycho metal band at a local club in Copenhagen. Every notion you ever had about music, you have to let go. Feel blank, and jump into the adventure of S.P.E.C.T.R.E.. Amazing stuff, which will leave you breathless. We are not alone, that's for sure.
Martijn Welzen

Spiritu – S/T MCD
(People Like You)

Latin for Breath of life an inspiration, well these guys really had loads of inspiration with 3 songs clocking around 9 minutes! This formation from New Mexico produces a very complex kind of stoner/doom rock that makes you yearn to the old days, with Black Sabbath and guys in worn-out denim-jackets. No.. just kidding, Spiritu has its own sound but it makes me remind of the slow Sabbath riffs. And that's just what I don't like about it, the absolute non-existing speed makes me lifeless and lazy. But of course that's just my opinion and if you're a great enthusiast for stoner metal than you're probably in for Spiritu.
Oink

Spiritus Sancti – Human Unknown CD
(Full House Records)

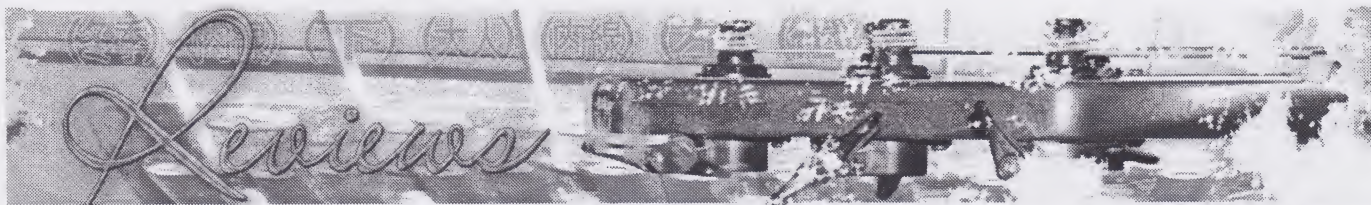
These guys have set their goal! Reviving the Swedish hardcore and metal scene. And even though the whole album has a solid toughguy / metalcore foundation it is not bringing anything new to re-light the scene in their home country. Up-tempo to rather fast parts, grunts and screams and definitely lots of parts to mosh to. You can have a great time at a SS show, but to me it's not mature enough to make the scene come to life.
Martijn Welzen

Spitvalves – Movin' On CD
(Resurrection AD Records)

All ska-core bands around the world.... Watch your backs! Spitvalves are here to take things over. Before this record they put "Fine Print at the Bottom" onto this world. And I already thought that one was a killer record. Now they have a more Spitvalves sound (think Mighty Mighty Bosstones mixed with Murphy's Law). Simply put it is all about the growth they made as musicians. What else could have happened during two years of intensive touring?
Martijn Welzen

Staring Back – On CD
(Lobster Records)

Previous releases such as "The Mean Streets of Goleta" and "Many Will Play" showed a young ban able to blend melodic hardcore with a more generic form of punkrock (think early Epitaph punk). With their second full length "On" their 12 songs featured, are more able to move the listeners. Not only moving in the sense of dancing, but also emotionally. You know, a band like Boysetsfire came to mind. Excellent melodic hardcore with melodies and vocals that can make the hair raise on your arms and the back of your neck. Nevertheless Staring Back is faster and more punk orientated, with even a dash of old fashioned hard rock here and there. Even at the high speed the bands' melody and great vocal work stay in tact.
Martijn Welzen



Street Dogs - Demo 2002 DEMO (Own Release)

I got an envelope out of the USA with a recordable cd in it some time ago... no info only the name Street Dogs on the disc and a phone number. Usually not a good way to get introduced to a band. The record remained on the shelf for some time until I got an email asking how the review was coming along. Time to listen to the record I thought, since I forgot about it. Man, it blew me away; it is well produced and gives an excellent mix of Dropkick Murphy's and Bouncing Souls. After also receiving a hit through email it came out Street Dog were fronted by Mike McColgan, known for DKM (During their "Boys on the Dock" and "Do or Die" era)... It kept on getting better and better, the record grew on me and stayed in my cd player for days. Also in the band is former DKM drummer Jeff Erna and Freeze bass-player Bill Close. Boston punk veterans without a doubt. So these new rising stars of the Boston scene have a deal with CrossCheck Records and Ken Casey (yes, the bass player for Dropkick Murphy's) will produce the disc. Keep an eye on these guys for sure.

Martijn Welzen

Striving Higher - ... At Caelum Certe Patet MCD (The Decline Records)

What I definitely like most about this Dutch old school band are the melodies. As we all know every possible old school tune has been regurgitated at least ten times. I have the greatest respect for bands that try to stick to the roots of modern hardcore, and still manage to get some new ingredients in it. Striving Higher, did just that, sheer old school power comparable to more modern bands like Mainstrike and Eyeball, get mixed up with influences of the US old school of hardcore (like Gorilla Biscuits), but most important the bands stands out by a punkrock, or even rock n roll way of playing their tracks. Sounds new and fresh, and they have carefully watched how a band like Bane has evolved. And with Menno of the Bunt Studio at the recording equipment thing worked out fine. It is a new band, and they deserve to be heard. And if singer Daan can get just that extra bit of power in his vocals they will become and important force of Dutch hardcore.

Martijn Welzen

Strong Intention - Extermination Vision CD (Coalition Records)

Balancing on the edges of metal, grind and hardcore Strong Intention is one of the most powerful records that could be added to your collection this year. 14 new songs that clock at about 16 minutes and come close to bands like Siege, Infest or SOB. It's lyrics and artwork show the aggressive punk approach of the band. Aggressive meaning trying to change the world into a better place by force if necessary. Don't let governments blind you, just get this record and learn about the real deal.

Martijn Welzen

Ten Foot Pole - Bad Mother Trucker CD (Victory Records)

This is the fourth album of Ten Foot Pole, and after their contract with Epitaph was expired they signed up with Victory. After the tragic and sudden death of their bass player Leigh Lawson, the rest of Ten Foot Pole took some time of to mourn and reconsider their priorities. They found out that their hearts still lay in the band. So after a new lineup they recorded Bad Mother Trucker. It's a real Ten Foot Pole album, but it seems to me that they start to play a bit softer, especially at the end of the album. Anyway, the cover is a bit childish. And that is also to say about the title. With a nice produced recording, and with their own positive sound, this is a good buyer from all the TFP fans.

Bar

The Adicts - Rise and Shine CD (Knock Out Records)

The Adicts are back and with a new album! And Knock Out Records is proud to present this album on vinyl. The Adicts are back to party on! Their catchy pop punk is great to party and drink a lot of beer. And, it is always cool to know that the "Clockwork Orange" style still is there. The sixteen songs are diverse and never boring. Therefore, don't wait any longer, check out this album and go party with The Adicts. More info you will find on <http://www.suburbias.com/adicts/>

Carel Groenen

The Automata - Through the bandage seeps a whisper MCD (x Life Sentence Records x)

A have mixed feelings about this band. Their music is very diverse and metallic as hell, like I like it, but the vocals are very boring. OK, it sounds cool for a couple of minutes but after a while you just want to hear also some other vocals than this high screaming stuff. If this guy would also use deep grunts and clean vocals, this band would almost perfect for me. The music is excellent with a lot of technical metallic but very passionate riffs so that's not the problem. There's a lot of potential in this band. I hope that the vocals will develop in the future and then I can't think of anything why I wouldn't be into this band for 100%.

Paco

The Big Heat - The Good, the Bands and the Nutty CD (Knockout Records)

Knock Out Records is huge on the street punk and oi level, but they like ska music to according to this release. The Big Heat shares the tradition of KO, since it is "rude" and from the streets. It really comes close to Two Tone ska band I have heard from Sweden (Chickenpox), but it has a much harder punk edge to it. The German band includes a lot of English ingredients in their music to make danceable, without becoming cheesy. The lyrics and layout are also an ode to the movements that made a name in the UK during the 60's.

Martijn Welzen

The Bones - Bigger than Jesus CD (People Like You Records)

The Bones are Boner (lead-guitar and backup/lead-vocals), Spooky Fred (drums and backup-vocals), \$ Ace (bass and backup-vocals) for the last time on this album, and Beef Bonanza (guitar and lead-vocals). The Bones have been around since 1996, providing fast and furious punk rock'n'roll. This is the second full length from these guys from Sweden and it sounds very mature. The 14 songs are furious and aggressive punkrock and roll tracks. The Bones are back and ready to impress the whole world. Want to get an impression of the band? On their website <http://www.bonesrocknroll.com> you will find some great downloads.

Carel Groenen

The Bouncing Souls / Anti-Flag Split CD (BYO Records)

One of my fav punkrock bands Bouncing Souls has also been infected with the split virus spread by BYO records. It's a good and friendly virus and forces bands to record a split cd / lp with other victims. Anti-Flag got infected too, and just had to record six songs for the fourth edition of the split series (after NOFX, Leatherface, Rancid and a couple of others). It's a great project, by BYO, and I hope doctors won't find a cure for this happy disease. So twelve tracks in total, four new songs by each band, Bouncing Souls covering an Anti Flag track and a Cock Sparrer anthem and Anti Flag playing a BS song and a track from a band called Buzzcock. Great edition once again to your collection if you're a fan of either band. The layout got back to the style this series had with volume one and two. So get infected and get it.

Martijn Welzen

The Collywobbles - Excellent Barfighters CD (Deadlock Records)

The Collywobbles started to play in 1996 in Klazienaveen (NL). After two years they released their first single and now in 2002 it is time for their first full length. The band plays a sort of dirty Rock and Roll. On the product info they say the Wobbles are Ass Kicking, Hard Drinkin', fast drivin Rock and Roll. Maybe I have to see them play live first, before I am gonna say this, but I think that almost every song on this album sounds the same. And I really dislike the voice of the singer. He is supposed to sound mean, but he is trying too hard! . I think I am not Rock and Roll enough to appreciate this album. Go visit these guys on www.thecollywobbles.com and tell me where I am wrong.

Carel Groenen

The Deal - Pretty Words, Better Days MCD (Sobermind Records)

Oldschool to the bone..! These Belgian guys rock their heads off at this mcd. Energetic, brutal old-school as we remember in the old days. 6 heavenly rocking songs bash trough your stereo. When I hear these songs the feeling of al legend is beginning to rise. I think it is not a lie when I call these guys the Belgian Reaching Forward, but with the potentation of Mainstrike..! I clap my hands for these guys..!

Joost van Ingen

The Hope Conspiracy - Endnote CD (Equal Vision Records)

Endnote; the newest release from Boston-based hardcore/punk formation The Hope Conspiracy. I couldn't wait to put this album on. 12 brand-new tracks kick right trough your speakers..! It sounds like the old stuff (Cold Blue CD, File03 MCD) but more refreshing, more true. I hope this ENDNOTE is not the last thing we hear from these legends..! Oh, man I like this one..! More energetic, more aggressive more HOPE CONSPIRACY..! This album summarized: heavy as hell.

Joost van Ingen

The Negatives - Rules and Regulations CD (Trash2001 Records)

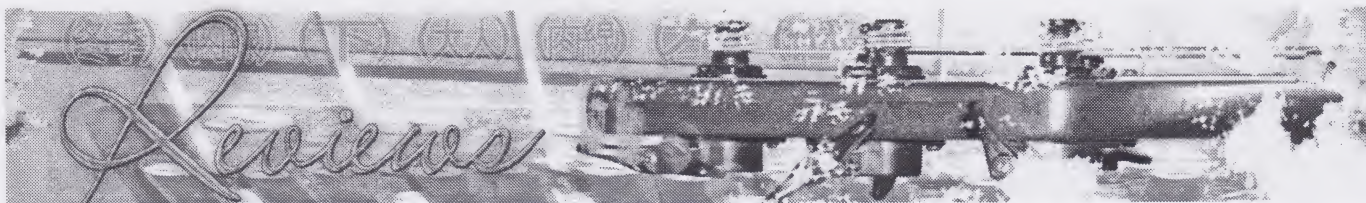
This is one of the greatest debut albums I have ever heard. These guys from Sweden have the right "fuck off" Punk attitude and the inspiration from the late seventies and early eighties bands. But they didn't forget to give the songs their own sound (Negatives Style) . The result is a great streetpunk album with twelve fantastic songs. The lyrics are about, for example, living in today's society of greed and power. News, pictures and lots more about the band you can read on <http://www.thenegatives.com> so don't hesitate and see what the rules and regulations are.

Carel Groenen

The Pietasters - Turbo CD (Make My Day Records)

Hey, The Pietasters left Epitaph..! Didn't know that. And to be honest after hearing the horrible "Awesome Mix Tape #6", with its dreadful pop tunes, which came just after the amazing punk influenced "Willis" (which was their debut at Epitaph), I couldn't care less. "Turbo" is their new effort and gives the band a good balanced sound of their newer pop sound and their older punk roots. And for those who still don't know the band... SKA is of course the main ingredient. This new cd is more relaxed and made me think of The Gadgets more than once. Good melodic tunes, 60's influenced, a motown drive, a reggae touch and totally laidback. How's that for a review in a punk magazine.

Martijn Welzen



The Porters - A Tribute To Arthur Guinness CD
(Knack Out Records)

From Ireland!! What the...!!? From Germany? Ok that's a surprise because when I listened to this album I was sure these guys were from Ireland. That of course is a compliment for a band that plays music in the style of the Real Mc Kenzies and the Dropkick Murphys. So it is not crazy to say that this album is really a Tribute To Arthur Guinness. I think even he had been surprised when he heard that these guys (and one girl) are from Germany. So after Flogging Molly I have another favourite band in this Irish folk/Punk genre. I guess some of the guys from Emscherkurve 77, 4 Promille, and Sondaschule who all also play in this band are looking forward to a busy year. Info on the net about The Porters can be found on <http://www.theporters.de>.
Carel Groenen

The Rebels - Torn & Frayed The Best of The Rebels CD
(Trash 2001 records)

This album is a 'ballad of youth' and is dedicated to the spirit everyone has when they're young. Some people lose it and some don't... The Rebels certainly didn't lose this spirit in the last twenty years. And that is great because in all this time they didn't get the appreciation they deserved. On this album are 32 of their best songs including 6 live songs recorded at their reunion gig at the Royalty in Sunderland and at their German tour in 2001. So check out this great album to find out how these guys "The Spirit Of Youth" keep on going. More info about The Rebels you find on www.trash2001.de.
Carel Groenen

The Reunion Show - Kill Your Television CD
(Victory Records)

You were disappointed with the last Get Up Kids; they weren't poppy and rocking enough...? You think Jimmy Eat World has sold out...? Here Victory records brings you The Reunion Show..! Hey you nerd-rockers out there..! Wake up from your computers and move your ass..! Hey you emo-guys stop whining and put on your dancing shoes..! These guys from Longisland NY bring you nice catchy emo with a Weezer-like sound. Together with their hometown-buddies Taking Back Sunday they are the rocking tone of the Victory bill.
Joost van Ingen

The Riotears - Radioactive Rhapsodies CD
(Trash 2001 Records)

Hey, let's start a band some guys from the German town Hanau must have thought some time ago. Only one singer could fill in the vacant spot of singer, namely Elvis. The only problem was Elvis was unavailable due to his early demise in '76. No problem, just dig up the king and take him back home to Hanau, which is also called nick named "Atomic City". There simply nothing a good dose of healthy radiation can't bring back to life. So it happened. Elvis got resurrected, and he wanted to make LOUD music. Rock is still the foundation but punk and psycho, in the vein of Dead Boys and Motörhead make the band sound exiting. The Hives, The Dwarves and Murder City Devils may sound similar but are probably not as radiant. This is raw and dangerous rock n roll, sometimes out of tune, "Radioactive Rhapsodies" couldn't have had a better name.
Martijn Welzen

The Spook - Some Like it Dead CD
(People Like You Records)

One thing I have to get of my chest first... for grave rock this record is NOT freighting enough. A total lack of psycho rhythms and spooky vocals make it a rather average record. The band name and cd title can't disguise the rock n roll band based on The Damned, Danzig or The Clash with some punk influences. The only thing I'm afraid of with this band is that it is nothing special.
Martijn Welzen

The Take - Propeller CD
(Householdname Records)

A record that grows on you. Welsh punk rockers have put more layers in their music than my mom does with her lasagne. And to keep the analogy going, these guys use more ingredients too to spice it all up. A bit or straightforward punkrock can get a Fugazi make over, and turn into a semi-maniacal Nirvana track. Everyone who's up for a survival course in the mountains of music can definitely put his/ her teeth into this one. It keeps on giving up more details and interesting bits. All, and I mean all, the kids who claim they like emo and punk with a rock edge should dig in. UK's best kept secret maybe? Let's wait with handing out that crown until the have played some shows on the mainland. Hey guys this is a challenge are you up to it?
Martijn Welzen

Think Ahead - Heartfelt MCD
(Own Release)

Five in your face old school tracks are my first encounter with this new Dutch band. If you take in mind the cd is recorded in just seven hours and mixed in three more, it's no wonder why they play this fast. Just kidding, this

caliban

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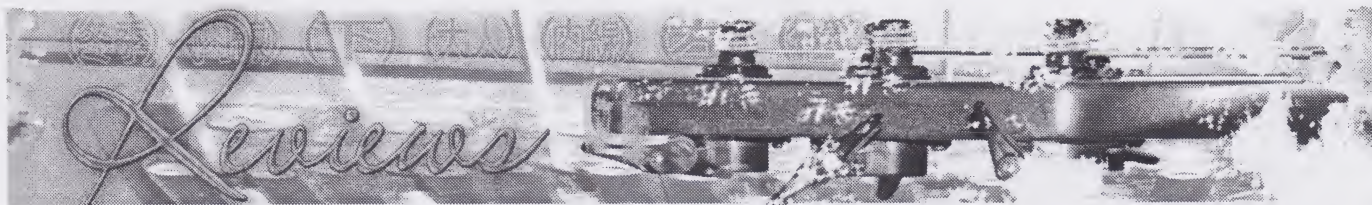





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We will not review promo-only material. We believe a band wants to share more than only their music. Therefore we will only review releases with their ACTUAL artwork/packaging and full lyrics.



band sounds really tight taking this studio-time in consideration. On the level of comparison you have to think about a Sick of it All mix with the old Dutch HC band Violation of Trust. Most important I think is the fact that singer Jeroen has the charisma of a real front man, this is sometimes dearly missed in hardcore bands. The lyrics are a bit generic for my taste, but in due time this band will make themselves heard. And they speak about ska influences in their biography, now that's something I can't hear; this is just old school hardcore all the way. No compromise!
Martijn Welzen

Thinktank – Here Is The Moment CD
(Householdname Records)

This record proves the narrow border between poppy punkrock and emo. The sound is too technical to be called punkrock but it is too swinging to be called "emo". (Who am I to give names....) But it is just to inform you that Thinktank produces a catchy pop-sound what will please a lot of you...!
Joost van Ingen

Third Season – Courage to Care MCD
(Funtime Records)

Vaaaaaaa!! Fast and furious newschool..! Abrasive guitariffs with a fast drum rhythm make it hard to stand still..! 6 hard rocking tracks slam you straight in the face, kick you on the ground, make you lose your teeth (I would make an appointment with your dentist is if I where you.. Listen at own risk..!)..! Third Season knows to bring melody in the most unexpected corners from their music, resulting in a complete own style. Quite amazing how these guys know how to fit the massive New York hardcore-style in a Belgian package. Watch your steps kid, the Third Season is coming..!
Joost van Ingen

Thursday – Five Stories Falling MCD
(Victory Records)

A new Thursday album..? Nah, not really. Though it delivers one brandnew Thursday-song accompanied with 4 really awesome live recordings from: Autobiography of a Nation, Understanding in a Carcrash, Standing on the edge of summer and Paris in Flames. Thursday made quite an impact with their last full-length cd, Full Collapse, released at Victory Records. I think Thursday is ready for the big audience. They prove it on this album with "Jet Black New Year". A typically Thursday track..!
Joost van Ingen

Today is the Day – Sadness Will Prevail 2CD
(Relapse Records)

Chaotic metal (core) is still growing, and as with every new style there are bands that keep on renewing this kind of music. Within the grey limits of what chaotic metalcore is, as if there are any limits, Converge, Dillenger Escape Plan and Today is the Day are to my opinion most progressive, and by no means are these bands giving you records that are easy to get a hold of. Today is the Day's is putting your senses as a listener to the limits with this double cd with close to thirty tracks and over two hours of music. Every possible influence has been used to, make this masterpiece to what it is; grind, deathmetal, hardcore, industrial and hints of jazz are bend just the way the three guys want it to bend. The addition of piano and violin are giving this concept a false sense of emotion and warmth. There's nothing warm about this record, coldness, loneliness and sadness are transformed into art, and you can feel the inner pain of singer Steve Austin. It is a portrayal of the grim reality as seen by the musicians. Might it also be a mirror for you to look at? Rather scary, when you come to think of it...
Martijn Welzen

Towerblocks – Praise Your Ghetto CD
(Knock Out Records)

From Berlin, Germany's capital are the Towerblocks. Four guys making streetpunk inspired by Sham 69. With the fifteen songs on this album, the band proves that new bands are not always boring. Not even the German accent in the English lyrics is disturbing me, so I can say that, The Towerblocks know how to make Oi music. And I won't be surprised if in a couple of years this will be one of the greatest Oi bands in Europe (maybe they already are). Want to go drink a beer with these guys? Visit www.towerblocks.de and see if you can get an appointment.
Carel Groenen

Toxic Narcotic – We're All Doomed CD
(Go Kart Records)

This new album, the first widely distributed, from one of Boston's oldest hardcore-punk bands contains 13 songs. Hard-hitting, raw and full of critics of today's society. In the song "5 billion people must die" is the perfect solution for saving the earth. And in "at war with nature" they tell us that humanity is the cancer to this earth. Toxic Narcotic is punk!!! Nothing more, nothing less. So go and visit their future website on www.toxicnarcotic.com or go and see one of their concerts because they are not happy until you are not happy!
Carel Groenen

Transplants – S/T CD
(Hellcat Records)

Tim Armstrong and Rob Aston formed Transplants in December of 1999. And it doesn't stop here, o no! Not only Tim Armstrong from Rancid but also Travis Barker from Blink182 is playing in this 3 guys formation. And it shows...!!!!!! Fucked up hardcore punk with lyrics about murder ('Quick Death') to failed friendships ('We Trusted You'). Nothing more about this album with twelve great songs. You just have to listen this one! All you want to now about this band is on <http://www.thetransplants.com>.
Carel Groenen

Trigger – Distort & Explode CD
(Nicotine Records)

"On this album you will find 12 tracks that combine 60's-70's rock and heavy metal punk rock in a very unique fashion that set a new standard for Swedish rock and roll." Now I don't know what the exact standard is for Rock and Roll in Sweden. But I know this: These guys from Gothenburg certainly are making a point with this second release. Shit, this music is blowing your ears off!!! Trigger is ready for the world but is the world ready for Trigger? Check for more info www.rocktrigger.com
Carel Groenen

True Illusion / Morda split-CD
(Burning Season Records)

It was only a short time ago that I received the split of Morda and Trust but here's again a split but now with True Illusion. True Illusion plays hardcore with many metal influences. The songs are OK. Some parts are too long-winded while other parts sound very fresh. Especially the vocals can use some more work because they sound a lot of times not convincing. The screams are OK but the grunts doesn't sound very inspiring but that's a kind of taste. Morda goes on in the same line as their old songs but are also not that convincing. They sound nice, that's for sure, but somehow they don't stick in your head. Maybe this is just not my cup of tea. Just check out some of their songs at burningseasonrecords.com and form your own opinion about these bands.
Paco

Truth Be Known – Stealing Stones to Build Tomorrow CD
(Blood and Ink Records)

The difficulty with sounding "tough" as a hardcore band, usually is finding a singer that has a voice like an ogre. Truth Be Known has a vocalist that really annoys me a times, and I 'm sure he's totally wrecking his chords by singing like this. The music is cool, moshing elements, mixed with straightforward hardcore and some melodic parts. For sure nothing new, but still good, but I can't seem to get past that singer. Maybe a lot of practice or touring will have, since there is potential within the band, but this record came to early if you ask me.
Martijn Welzen

Two Thirty Frames – Two Thirty Frames MCD
(Revelation Records)

Rock and hardcore don't really seem to mix. The "sex, drugs and rock n roll" slogan would be in constant battle with the political background of punk. Not to mention the different attitudes in both styles. Nevertheless Thirty-two Frames can only be described as a hardcore rock band. In the past the band members have paved way for this burst of energy with By the Grace of God, Enkindles and Automatic. You know I also had to think of Gorilla Biscuits in some tracks. And yes, their lyrics have content, not about beer, cars and women, but about important political issues. When are they in Europe?
Martijn Welzen

Uneath – Endless MCD
(Alveran Records)

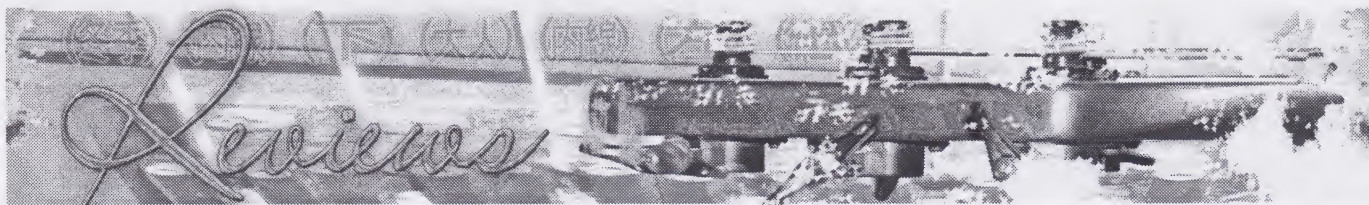
With their latest full-length Uneath made a huge impact on me. Their live shows on their European tour were also great which made me look forward to their new release. This mcd goes on in the same line as their oldest work. Catchy technical melodic tunes with many heavy breakdowns. On this release the vocals are also more diverse, something I can only support. Unfortunately I didn't get the original artwork with this promotional edition so I can't say something about the lyrics and artwork. Nevertheless, musically this is maybe even more excellent than their latest full-length 'Stings of Conscience'.
Paco

Unsung Zeros – Moments From Mourning CD
(Eulogy Recordings)

Wauw..! This band has come back..! After my less positive (moreover negative) review of their last full length "Fading Out" (See IK#5) this band really surprises me with this release. This album sounds like a full-grown emotional influenced punkrock band. Remarkably how fast this band has turned out to a real success..! The music these guys produce is a bit poppy punkrock with a energetic clean voice. I think Eulogy could be proud with this ugly duckling..!
Joost van Ingen

Various – Another Round of Golf Vol.4 CD
(Golf Records)

It is always great to receive a label sampler. Why? Because this a great opportunity to hear some bands before you buy their album. And because it is another album for your collection :). On this one we find the following bands: Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Snuff, 4FT Fingers, Less Than Jake, Consumed, Jesse James, Gash, Tuuli, Yeast and Trice. My favourite on this one: Tuuli, not especially for their music but more for their photo in the booklet :). (www.tuuli.com) But there is also a lot of great music on this sampler. Want to know more about the Golf records releases? Just visit their website on www.golfrecords.com
Carel Groenen



**Various - Escalating Unholy War CD
(Unity World Wide)**

Four of UK's loudest (and probably most obnoxious) bands wage a war on us all. General Freebase is overlooking the battlefield and firing no less than six scuds over the hills. Including one by Conflict and two by GBH (Punks Not Dead totally rocks!). The Stormtroopers of Eviscerate AD, put five huge tanks into action, and they enter the war zone with lots of metal, without fear and mercy they totally mosh things up. When all is torn down, Set Against come in to finish things off like soldiers on a search and destroy mission... straight forward stomping hardcore, which is built on a hardcore foundation, but reinforced with metal. Don't like their sound too much though... Finally Diction is securing the area like a bunch of snipers. Straight forward, with a NYHC old school edge. Good way to know some of the UKHC killing machines, the overall sound could have been better, but I enjoyed this vulgar display of power.

Martijn Welzen

**Various - Florida Underground CD
(Somberlain Records)**

Since there are 20 bands on this compilation it is going to be hard to write a review that won't take half the magazine, so I'll focus on the things they have in common. These bands are from Florida (duh!) and play music ranging from punk to metallic hardcore. Most of them are really talented, but all deserve a chance to be heard. And many of the bands already have a label, but all are probably dying to play outside of their own state or even across the Atlantic. I was only hoping it would be more of a scene report of the current state the Floridian scene is in, with pictures, discographies, flyers etc in the booklet or maybe a cd rom track. Some names: Evergreen Terrace, Seventh Star, School for Heroes, Never in Red, Venusian Skyline, Glasseater and Jealousy Issue. If you call yourself underground and are always looking for new and obscure bands this is your record. Email: somberlainrecords@hotmail.com to get all ordering info needed. And since it would only cost you a few dollars, there's no reason not to contact them.

Martijn Welzen

**Various - Knock Out in the 6th Round 'Eternal Scars' CD
(Knock Out Records)**

Knock Out is proud to present their 6th label sampler. And they can be proud! Again a streetpunk sampler for a streetpunk price. 22 of the best punkrock songs they ever released with bands such as Bonecrusher, Discipline, Menace, Oxymoron, Radio 69 and more. And all of this for less than 5 euro. So support K.O. Records and save the vinyl !!!!!!! For all info go to www.knock-out.de.

Carel Groenen

**Various - MTV Road Rules - Don't Make Me Pull This Thing Over Vol. 1 CD
(Roadrunner Records)**

MTV is not really the TV channel that is known for renewing the music scene. They usually follow the big trends and are not interested in showing "underground" music. This compilation, based on the series "Road Rules" tries to dig a bit deeper into the "real" music. Thursday, AFI, The Juliana Theory, Taking Back Sunday, Dashboard Confessional, the Get Up Kids and one of the most underrated bands ever; Thrice, make this cd more than the average expendable "hits" collection. For the diehard collector it's not really interesting since as far as I can tell there are no unreleased songs on here (or maybe just "Bring It Low" of Juliana Theory's forthcoming album). I do hope it will open some more doors for the cool bands I just mentioned.

Martijn Welzen

**Various - Nicotine Records CD
(Nicotine Records)**

Yeah, like our country has the great Stardumb, Italy has Nicotine. Punk, rock n roll, beer and cigarettes. Standing in front of the mirror pretending you're Joey or Dee Dee Ramone. Get together with some friends and start cranking out some punk tunes. Hey ho, let's go. The foundation of punkrock right? Lots of them right here... Real Swinger, Trigger, Spamabilly, Danny's Wednesday and more... some cool, and some, eh not so cool, but a nice way to get to meet the bands and the label. Food for your pc included in bios, pictures and video footage.

Martijn Welzen

**Various - Plea For Peace <- Take Action 2CD
(Sub City Records)**

This sampler is great. These benefit album pleas for the high suicide numbers throughout the world. This mixed-mode 2CD explains how to handle when a colleague or friend walks around with suicidal tendencies. Some bands who contributed to this compilation: Anti Flag, Finch, Poison The Well, Snapcase, Open Hand, Cave In, Shadows Fall, Eighteen Visions, The Movielife Piebald, Taking Back Sunday, Digger and more. 33 tracks of their most recent work..!

Joost van Ingen

**Various - Strength to Prevail CD
(Facedown Records/ Blood and Ink Records)**

Two US labels from the opposite sides of the country have one thing in common, good hardcore bands with a wide variety of styles. I could have said all with a Christian background, but I don't want to put too much of a label on these bands, since you just have to give them an honest chance. Facedown are old friends of mine and I know for sure their bands (Sinai Beach (album coming up Feb. 2003 and it is gonna kill!!), Hanover Saints, Falling Cycle to mention a few), have the power to make a lasting impression, and in style they range from metal core to street punk. For Blood and Ink this is the first time I get acquainted with the label. Nevertheless with Nourish the Flame, Truth Be Known, and Life or Death they also have a powerful roster to give the world some bands to look out for. As I know Facedown this records could be yours for only a few euros / dollars. So check it out.

Martijn Welzen

**Various - Swedish Assault CD
(Relapse Records)**

Six different bands share this cd, and there are two things they have in common. They are Swedish and loud. Bands are either pure grindcore (like Gadget) or have a more deathmetal approach (like Birdflesh), my favourite would be Genocide Superstar, since they have taken Motörhead influences to the edge of grindcore. Most hardcore oriented has got to be, the also very cool, Disfear and this band is probably also the best known of this six pack of brutality. I forgot to mention Sayyadina and Assel to make all names known. It's the fourth issue in a row, released by Relapse to spread the most intense music around.

Martijn Welzen

**Various - The Facedown Records 22 Ton Sampler CD
(Facedown Records)**

One.21, Figure Four, The Deal, Dogwood, Overcome. They are all represented on this sampler. Facedown records sets a standard with their religious undertoned hardcore music. This sampler presents the variety of bands signed with this marvellous label. Figure Four with their brutal mosh-hardcore, Dogwood with their fresh poppy punk-rock, all immortal until the end.

Joost van Ingen

**Various - The Mighty Desert Rock Avengers 2CD
(People Like You)**

"People like you" is known to bring you some of the most talented stoner/rock bands around the world..! This collection of the finest hits informs you perfectly how this scene is growing and how successfully it grows. Bands like Sunride, Abdullah, Spiritu, Lowrider, the Mushroom River band, Thumlock, Solace Duster69 and many, many more..! As you hear; 32 mindblowing most unreleased hits from hellish good bands..! Over 120 minutes heavily rockin', bone crushing rock music to the top..!

Joost van Ingen

**Various - This is solid state Volume 3 CD
(Solid State)**

It looks like the new sound of Christian bands is very metallic stuff with high screamings :-). That's how a lot of these bands sound. I kinda didn't know anymore which bands were on this great label so this compilation is a great way for me to get to know all these fine bands. Of course you can find some tracks of Zao, Soapbox, Norma Jean, Blindside and more on this cd. The band that impresses me the most is Underoath. These guys really DO have a great diverse sound. I advice all of you to check their full-length right know because you have to hear them. Alrighty then, to sum it up, nice sampler for all of you who want to get to know what Solid State is working on nowadays.

Paco

**Various - Time Flies By CD
(Emplane Music)**

Wow. This album contains the fines roc/emo bands around..! Christiansen, Thinktank, Keepsake, Face Tomorrow, Coheed and Cambria, This Afternoon. You also find a nice acoustic version from Midtown's "Living in spite". A nice compilation when you don't know which album you have to choose. It brings the best of every artist.

Joost van Ingen

**Various - Under the Influence CD
(Too Damn Hype Records)**

"A tribute to The Smith's, The Clash and The Cure" it says on the booklet too as a subtitle. So there you go; eleven bands covering a song by either of the aforementioned bands. Bands like H2O, Converge, The Business, Cave In and Vision are giving their best on this comp. All sounds better than it is, to my opinion, since some bands have delivered rather poor recordings to this sampler. Saves the Day, H2O, Converge, Chimaira and Murphy's Law are awesome, but bands like Dropkick Murphy's and The Business can't reach the same level. Only for collectors of obscure stuff.

Martijn Welzen

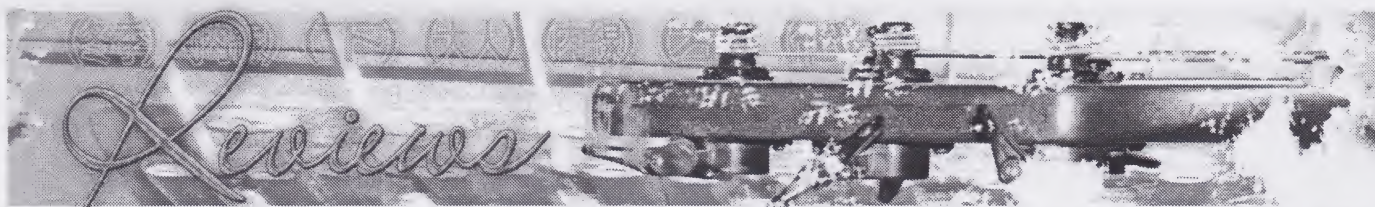
**Various - ZAAAZZ CD
(Troskot Records)**

Since a portion of the money made by this cd will go to charity it is already worth buying it before you've heard a single band. But even so the cd itself is also nice. Most bands on the melodic punkrock level, and not that well known, but they sound cool. Zsk and Misconduct are probably best known. Unfortunately lyrics, band info or even the country these bands come from is not included. So I'm not sure where Flame On, Gob Squad, 210, Skalladdin (with "Britney's Beer" :) and Western Special are coming from. Get in touch with troskotrecords@hotmail.com and support a home for disabled people in the Bulgarian town Stara Zagora.

Martijn Welzen

**Viva Death - S/T CD
(Vagrant Records)**

"Viva Death" as name for the band and "Fundamentalist" as first song on the album sounds scary but also promising. Scary, because what kind of ideas do these guys have. Promising, because these issues



could stand for some old school noise punk. After a study of the album, I can tell you this band is not scary but maybe a little bit strange. Why? For an example: A song about rigor mortis is not an issue you hear everyday on the radio. But with songs as "Terrorism for fun and profit" or "Manipulate, Capitulate" these guys let us know that, they are not stupid and standing in the middle of life! The music? Just as I expected, raw noise punk for 15 songs long. You can visit their site on www.vivadeath.com, but the only thing you can do is download "Fundamentalist" because the site is still under construction.
Carel Groenen

Waking Kills The Dream - Depending On Tomorrow CD
(Goodlife Recordings)
Waking Kills The Dream hails from Dayton Ohio and is the result of collaboration between Kevin Byers (ex-Morning Again) and Matt Tackett (Twelve Tribes). The band saw the light of day early 2002 and has had several line-up changes since then. Despite all the problems they managed to release their impressive debut full-length album Depending on Tomorrow this fall. This album is characterized by diversity and obstinacy. Call it sensitive hardcore, call it emotional metalcore, call it brutal emo. Call it what you will but the fact remains this album is heartbreaking and soul shattering. The perfect soundtrack for a break-up and an ideal way to deal with a loss of love. Songs like Failure In Speaking, Everything, Answered And Broken, song #5 and October will make you shiver. www.geocities.com/wakingkillsthehome.html
Jeroen Nab

Watershed - The Unreflective Interest in Action DEMO
(Own Release)
It's the third demo and still no label? A hardcore label wouldn't have any use for this mixture for Tool, Life of Agony, Ignite and even some gloomy Black Sabbath riffs, but it really is cool. In Sweden it seems to be picking up for the band. The rest of Europe is still ignorant about what these guys have to offer. The four track on this particular release are again better and especially Arturs vocals sound a lot better. For the future we can

expect even more since the band has included a second guitar player to their line up.
Get your info through www.watershed.rock.it
Martijn Welzen

Wings of Scarlet / Tears Will Drown / With Dead Hands Rising split-CD
(x Life Sentence Records x)
Three new bands on one split release. The resemblance between these bands is the metallic sound and the bad production of the songs. The bands on this split release give me the same feeling as many other cd's I received lately to review. The songs sound OK but the music is not really outstanding and convincing. Many bands are playing metal influenced hxc and when you want to attract attention you've to come with something outstanding. First up is Wings of Scarlet. They play an emotional kind of metallic hardcore with a lot of slow parts and some fast more technical metallic parts. Problem is that they use the same riffs too long what makes some parts of their songs a bit boring. Tears Will Drown is next and the aspect that irritates me a lot is the monotonous sound of the vocals with a high wahwah level. The music is nice metallic stuff but the vocals are too boring to listen to. The use of clean vocals is a positive element in their songs but the screamed vocals are just totally not my cup of tea. Last but not least is With Dead Hands Rising. This is for sure the best and most convincing band of this split cd. The production is a little bit better and the structures of the songs are better worked out. Sometimes they remind me a little bit of Throwdown because of the heavy breakdowns. This just sounds more powerful than the previous bands.
Paco

Yeast - Expander CD
(Golf Records)
Taking what they like from melodic hardcore and old fashioned punk, and make it a perfect Yeast sound. Or so it seems, after a mellow opening track the band turns in to a Helmet like outfit that uses staccato rhythms to convince you of their message. Never forgetting the melody and great vocals that form founda-

tion for Yeast's music. Vocals that sometimes turn in to desperate cries in the night and make a well thought contrast to the emotional stories that form this bands lyrics, maybe even in a Boysetsfire atmosphere. The band has grown into a collective that gives good music and good lyrics.
Martijn Welzen

ZAO - Parade of Chaos CD
(Solid State Records)
Although the album is called "Parade of Chaos" this is to my opinion the less chaotic release by this ferocious US band. Darkest of metal, deepest of vocals are given more structure than any ZAO record before... pretty much straight forward sometimes (as with the title track) To me it make the band even more frightening, especially taking into account the spoken, whispered, melodic undertone that carries some of the songs. More bands seem to be using this "softer" or "emo" parts to give the aggression even more impact... a global killer asteroid sort of impact where ZAO is concerned. It's a bit double to me giving an honest opinion on this record. To me it is their best one to date, but simply judging on the progression in music it would be a step back in time. Nevertheless this is a merciless rock n roll album.
Martijn Welzen

ZINE REVIEW

Pure & Simple zine
And again there is a new Pure & Simple. And this is the best one until now! Why? Because there is an interview with Inside Knowledge in it of course. No this is bullshit but we appreciated it much. No, why is this one better? Because the layout is better, the interviews are better and there is even some colour in it. This time interviews with The Nerds, The Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Cenobites, One Man Army, The Bones, Hardsell, Voodoo Glowskulls and with different zines. And of course the shitty reviews are also in this issue.
Contact Pure & Simple @ mmmaggie@hotmail.com
Carel Groenen



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Depending On Tomorrow is the first album by Waking Kills The Dream. A very impressive album by an eclectic new band combining elements of emo, hardcore, punk and metalcore. Kevin Byers (ex-Morning Again, responsible for screams) and 'new' singer Joe Anderl ('melodic'singing) explain how Waking Kills The Dream saw the light of day and what the band's all about

Why did you and Matt Tackett (Twelve Tribes) decide to work together?

Kevin: I knew at the time that the only thing Matt was doing was filling in for Derek in Poison The Well and I knew he wanted to do more, so I contacted him. We decided to work together and Waking Kills The Dream was born, everything kinda fell into place from there.

Is it a big advantage that most of the guys in the band played in other successful bands like Twelve Tribes and Morning Again and already had the right contacts in the musicbusiness?

Kevin: I thought being in Morning Again would help out more than it actually has. It has been as tough on us as it would be on any new band. It was back to square one and starting from scratch and that really sucks. The only advantage is the fact that it did help us getting hooked up with Goodlife Recordings.

Why did you call the band Waking Kills The Dream?

Kevin: We went through a couple of different names before we came up with this name. We were going through our previous singer's old lyrics and he had a verse that used waking kills the dream in it. It just struck a chord with us.

The music Waking Kills The Dream makes is something different than Twelve Tribes and more emotional and melodic than Morning Again and Dead Blue Sky, why did you guys decide to make this kind of

emotional call-it-what-you-willcore and how would you classify the music Waking Kills The Dream makes?

Kevin: Going into it we had no clue what it would sound like. We just started to mess around and it took off from there. It came out better than we expected. Music wise Waking Kills The Dream is more of what I listen to. I am into a lot of emo and poppunk stuff. As we write more songs that is coming through more. I've been listening to bands like Finch and The Used, that's what has been inspiring me.

Joe: Balls out! This question is always so hard to answer, because I would rather have other people say this for us. I don't want people to say 'oh there's that hardcore band Waking Kills The Dream', I'd rather have them say 'let's go see that awesome band Waking Kills The Dream tonight'. The hardcore bands that inspire me are Hopesfall, The Beautiful mistake, The Hope Conspiracy, Twelve Tribes, The Dream is Dead and From A Second Story Window. I Personally think that Waking Kills The Dream makes emotional hardcore, kick me right now for even writing that down, because isn't all hardcore emotional.

Why did the band have so many line-up changes is that due to unbridgeable artistic differences or something else?

Kevin: Things went a little slow at first, so I think it kinda discouraged the other guys and eventually it resulted in a lack of faith in me. I always keep pushing on and after some of the bandmembers left we replaced them. Actually our old bassplayer Jason is coming back, so that's awesome.

Joe, how did you get in contact with the band?

Joe: I used to go see Waking Kills The Dream, I thought they were really awesome. One night Kevin came out and saw me play an acoustic set at a local club, we talked for a while and he asked me if I had any interest in joining the band since their singer Matt Shetler would be leaving soon. I was really excited! After a few weeks past I thought that Kevin had already found a replacement and that I had no chance. One day I was sitting at work and I got a phonecall from him, he said that they had a couple of shows coming up and he wanted me to sing. I learned all the songs by heart that week, practised with the band once and then played my first show. Officially I was only in Waking kills The Dream for 48 hours before my first show.

Isn't it hard to fill in for someone?

Joe: I used to joke with my friends that this was punkrock karaoke. I mean I get to sing for one of my favourite bands. I guess now that we are writing new material I now really feel like I am part of this and a full fledged member versus someone who's just helping out for a couple of shows.

How did the public respond to all the line-up changes?

Joe: Matt Tackett and Kevin Byers are the only original members of the band at this point. Dayton has such a large talent pool to grab from and a lot of great bands originate from this area, especially in the hardcore scene. I mean sometimes you have to pinch yourself because you can go see bands like



Twelve Tribes, Dead Blue Sky, Rune and Dead Poetic on the same night. Most of the kids were awesome about the line-up changes. In fact Matt Shetler still comes to see us and he totally sings along with me. I guess there will always be comparisons to the different line-ups, but that's ok, to each their own. I am just going to go out there and leave it all on the floor every night and people can take it or leave it. That's the beautiful thing about music, it is full of choices to participate or not. I chose to participate and enjoy.

What's the essence of waking kills The Dream according to you?

Joe: It's Heart. We are passionate about what we do, because if we weren't we wouldn't have been doing this for so long. We have all been in bands for a long time and I believe it is what really sustains us personally as well as collectively. There is nothing like writing a killer song and having the privilege to share it with others.

The album Depending On Tomorrow is a really personal, intense and emotional album, something totally different than most of the bands play nowadays. How did that come about?

Kevin: I think what we sing about are things everyone can relate to. With Morning again everything was so serious and most of the songs focussed on straightedge in the broadest sense of the word. I think it only appealed to a certain crowd, but the music we make with Waking Kills The Dream has more mass appeal and deals with issues everyone experiences in their life, like love.

Joe: Some songs tell a story, some things are reactions to things I've read or heard and some songs are just about life experiences. That's the great thing about this. Music is yours and you can do whatever you want with it. I am a firm believer that if you play something you enjoy then that should pass over to the kids listening to it.

Do you have any recurring dreams that keep you from a good nights sleep?

Joe: I always have a dream that I forget to show up to a college class for a whole quarter and I fail and do not graduate but this isn't possible because I graduated with a degree in marketing two years ago.

Kevin: Since I've been a kid I always have the same dream. I'm being held hostage and no matter how hard I try to escape all my attempts fail.

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More info on Waking Kills The Dream check:
www.geocities.com/wakingkillstheDreamsite/waking_home.html

Interview by Jeroen Nab

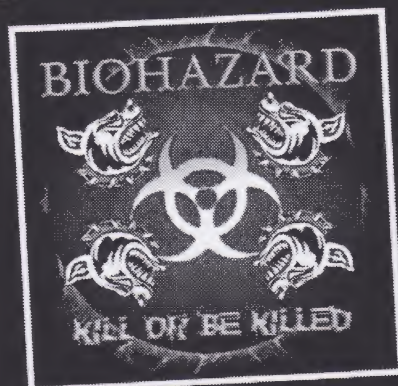


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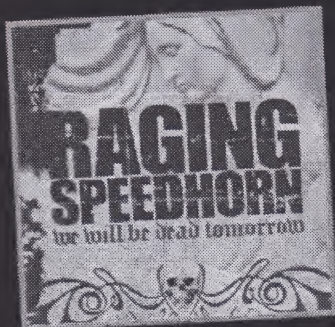
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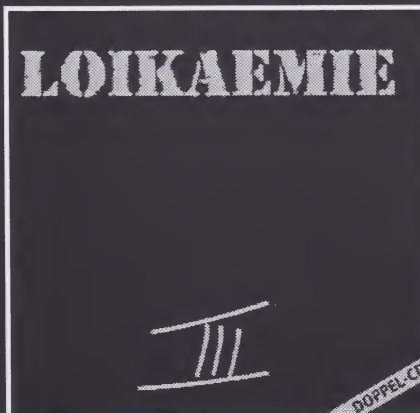
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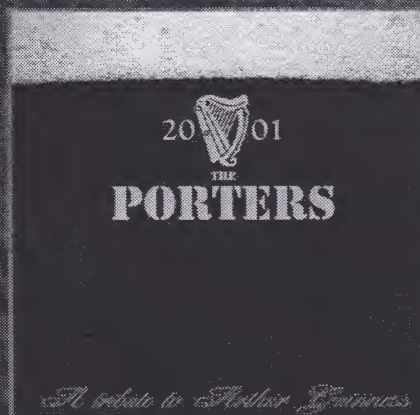


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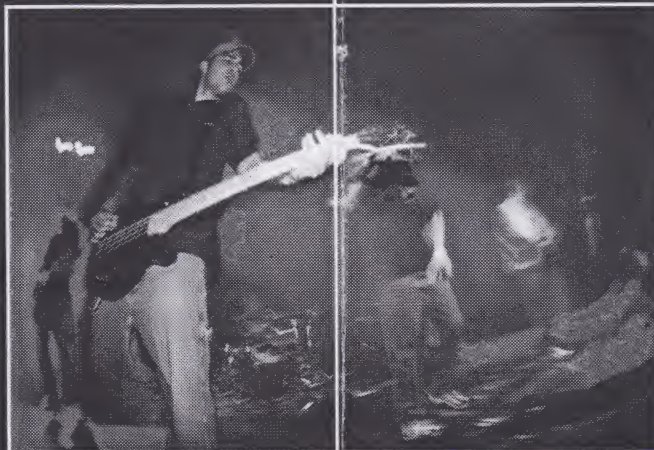
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away from that problem for just one minute.
To me that's worth more than going out hat-
ing and complaining like everybody else
does. Of course my release is doing it over
a show or a song, but there are lots of
ways.

**And what's with this justice thing we
have been talking about? When I read
the lyrics to a track like "Judgement
Strikes" I get the idea you want to take
justice in your own hands... that can't
be good...**

That's the thing, take our band... some
people would think by us being a success-
ful band that would be injustice. "Why are
they successful?" But that's how this world
works. We don't think we did all this hard
work, we slept on the floor, spend days in a



fucking van, that
we are entitle to
this. We are not
entitled to this.
We are not enti-
tled to selling
200.000 records.

**But you often
hear this phrase
"you have to
pay your
dues"... that's
doesn't apply to
Hatebreed?**

Everybody says; you paid your dues, that's
why this is happening. They could be right,
but what I am saying is that there is no guar-
antee at that. People will say someone like
Christina Aguilera is big because it is pop.
Who am I to say she didn't pay her dues, just
because I don't like here music. It can all go
either way. I'm tired of that mentality. I think
this is a good representation of where we
are to day. And a song like "Judgement
Strikes" is about someone who just been
dealt the injustice... but I am the one who's
saying it about myself. One of the lyrics is
"Jealousy seethes through your callous
words". That's what we see every day. Kids
that hate other bands, bands that hate other
bands. And really what is all comes down to
is jealousy and envy, and wanting something
you can't have. I'm tired of that. I don't want
to think about stuff that I can't have. I'm
gonna work as hard as I can to get what I

want, but I'm not gonn
to achieve a certain g
to expect it or say that
have got to let these t
ing a book right now
and getting things don
lot of things I have rea
we spend so much tim
ing etc. And if you wo
things that you have
step further, and that
next record.

**Is it also because you
your band and your
have signed with a
might also be some
would want to achiev
ousy thing kicks in a
to do with the fact th
rifice everything to g
I think we had nothin
other bands. I think th
supported us, and ba
bands that don't wan
don't mind do your ow
bands like Fugazi th
power to have enoug
own records. I would
that doesn't exist on t
spread myself too thin
on the Internet and s
my friends out and su
That's time that I don't
and I encourage peo
think that gives you c**

